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Israeli soldiers wound 10 in Gaza

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GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip (AFP) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded 10 Palestimans, including five children, in the occupied Gaza Strip Friday, Palestinian sources said. The worst incidents occurred in the Shan refugee camp, where nine is destinians were shot, they said. On Thursday, Israeli soldiers shot and wounded six Palestinians, including four children, in the same camp (Alarming increasse, page

Kaddoumi favours PLO power-sharing

PARIS (AFP) — Farouk Kaddoumi, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) top foreign policy official, said Friday he favoured more power-sharing in the organisation. "We should im-rove the circulation of information and take into account different opinions within the PLO. We would try to ensure that decisions are more collegial," he told AFP in an interview. He emphasised that even with the present structure, decisions were taken collectively. Mr. Kad-doumi, who was ending a two-day visit here, had been asked to comment on a recent call for a "collegial leadership" for the PLO by Haidar Abdul Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to Middle East peace talks.

Indonesia denies ties with Israel

SINGAPORE (AP) - Indonesia Friday denied reports it was establishing diplomatic relations with Israel. "That is not at all rue," said Indonesian Foreign dinister Ali Alatas. "We have no. ntentions of establishing relaions with them." Mr. Alatas was ommenting on news reports. rom Israel saying the Indonesian imbassador in Singapore had or to Israel to hold negotiaion. o relations. Mr. Alatas said recently he had gone to a conference in Vienna and sat at the same table with an Israeli minister. He said the chance event had been portrayed wrongly as a meeting between Indonesian and Israeli government representatives, "When I only exchanged one sentence with him,"

Worst locust threat in sub-Saharan Africa

Mr Alatas said.

CAIRO (AP) - Rains that promised drought relief to much of sub-Saharan Africa are generating swarms of locusts that threaten calamity for much of the are the United Nations said Frius . Edouard Saouma, Lebanese director-general of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), said the locust menace is the worst since 1987. In addition to Northern Africa, swarms of the marauding insects have been sighted across the Arabian Peninsula and as far east as Pakistan, the FAD said. And with the onset of the Indian monsoon, it said that country's western Rajasthan area probably will be infested by the end of

Plane crash kills 53 in China

PEKING (AP) — A passenger plane crashed shortly after takeoff Friday in northern China, killing at least 53 people, the of al Xinhua news agency reported. A French tourist was among the dead. Xinhua said, without giving a name. A total of 108 passengers and five crew members were on the Beitingbound plane when it crashed at the Yinchuan airport, the Xinhua said. Yinchuan, capital of the Ningxia Hui autonomous region. is about 900 kilometres west of Beijing. The report did not sav what kind of plane it was or name the airplane. No explanation was given for the crash.

Yeltsin: Parliament threatens democracy

MOSCOW (R) - Russian President Boris Yeltsin, in a fierce ittack on parliament, accused the onservative legislature Friday of

" a ening democracy by trying o more power. A statement his press service denounced ment's attempts to have the vr minister and the mayor of w sacked and said Mr. would disregard its rendations (see page 10).

Fateh endorses confederation, insists on Jerusalem on agenda

Palestinians ready to skip preliminary stages in peace talks

TUNIS - Fatch, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) largest faction, Friday endorsed a confederation between Jordan and the Palestinians as a way of ending the deadlock in Middle East peace talks.

But a statement issued by the group's Revolutionary Council emphasised that such a confederation should be between "the state of Jordan and the state of Palestine."

It was unclear if such a condition would be acceptable to Israel, which has repeatedly rejected the Palestinians' call for an

independent homeland. The council meeting drew about 100 Fateh leaders for four days of talks. The concluding statement was carried by the Palestinian news agency WAFA.

. The idea of a confederation between Jordan and the Israelioccupied West Bank and Gaza Strip has been floated since midmonth by some Israeli and Palestinian leaders as a way of breaking the impasse in the U.S.backed peace talks.

Both sides believe that some linkage would allow the negotiators to bypass discussion of an "interim" solution and go right to a final settlement on the territor-

It also could circumvent diffi-

BAGHDAD, (Agencies) — U.N. inspectors flew in Friday for a

routine check of Iraq's nuclear

sites after Baghdad finally bowed

to U.N. pressure for long-term

monitoring of its weapons prog-

rammes, avoiding a showdown with the Western allies.

The 15-member team was

headed by Maurizio Zifferero,

deputy director of the Vienna-

based International Atomic

The team will inspect nuclear

facilities and also prepare for an

airlift of about 40 kilogrammes of

irradiated nuclear fuel to Russia

as part of the U.N. effort to

prevent a revival of Baghdad's

Mr. Zifferero, an Italian, said

Officials of the U.N. Special

Commission which is overseeing

the elimination of Iraq's non-

conventional weapons have said a

special plane was being adapted

to ensure that even in the event of

a crash, there would be no leak-

its kind as such cargo was trans-

LONDON (Agencies) — Prime

Minister John Major won a vote

of confidence and parliamentary

backing for a treaty of European

union Friday, facing down rebels

in his party with the threat of an

Mr. Major won the confidence

motion 339-299 in the house of

commons. The government ear-lier prevailed 339-301 against a

last-gasp attempt by the Labour

Party to force it to sign up to a

charter of worker's rights as part

Britain's formal ratification of the

treaty, once the courts dispose of

a private suit filed earlier this

to do ... was to hand over the

running of this treaty to a Labour

government," said William Cash.

a leading Tory treaty opponent

who finally supported Mr. Major

Winding up a daylong debate,

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd

declared: "This the last speech in

the last debate on the ratification

of the Maastricht Treaty. I was

fairly sure of applause on that

proposition at least."

"The one thing I wasn't going

The votes cleared the way for

of the Maastricht Treaty.

immediate national election.

ported by ships in the past.

The airlift would be the first of

the airlift will start in September

nuclear weapons programme.

and last until March.

age of radiation.

Energy Agency (IAEA).

Combined agency despatches Palestinians want Arab East Jerusalem as the capital of their would-be state: Israel refuses to discuss the redivision of the city.

According to the statement carried by WAFA, the Fateh Council urged enhancing "the future relations between the Palestinian people and the Jordanian people on the basis of con-

Senior Fateh officials said the council also urged the PLO leadership to activate six working groups set up with Jordan earlier this month to work out details of the proposed confederation.

The statement said the council believed no Middle East peace settlement could be reached without a resolution of the status of Fateh also demanded that East

Jerusalem be put on the agenda of the peace talks. The United States has been trying to persuade the Palestimians to put aside the issue of Jerusalem until discussions begin on a permanent solution after an

interim autonomy agreement goes into effect. The Fateh decision said that Jerusalem as "capital of the state of Palestine" must be put on the peace talks agenda.

It also insisted that Israel accept U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. "The total Israeli withdrawal

U.N. starts long-term watch

of Iraqi arms programmes

"Lots of preparation is needed," Mr. Zifferero said.

We will start actually filling in

the transfer casks and shipping

casks from the middle of Septem-

ber... it is a very complicated

Iraq on Thursday officially con-

firmed for the first time that it

had accepted long-term monitor-

ing of its weapons programmes.

But the United Nations remained

wary of the intentions of a coun-

terms of the 1991 Gulf war cease-

Another team of U.N. inspec-

Baghdad Friday with surveillance

cameras to be installed at two

controversial missile testing sites,

Yawm Al Azim and Al Rafah,

Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N.

Commission, told the U.N. Secur-

ity Council Thursday that his five

days of talks with senior Iraqi

officials produced a declaration

from Iraq that it accepts the

council's resolution on long-term

monitoring and an agreement to

hold technical talks with the Un-

ited Nations on the outstanding

Major wins confidence vote

linked to Maastricht Treaty

parliament to ratify the treaty of

pean Community (EC) have

already endorsed. Arguments ab-

out Britain's place in Europe

have divided both the main par-

ties, and contributed to the down-

fall of Margaret Thatcher in 1990.

Rowdy House, referring to Con-

servative Party divisions over the

treaty he negotiated at Maastricht

must be lanced today," he added. Conservative rebels faced the

choice of getting into line or forcing a national election that

the party — running last in opin-ion polls — would be hard-

They returned to the fold Fri-

day when it became clear Major

would carry out his threat to call a

snap general election.

Opinion polls show the Con-

servatives, hit by a series of crises

and U-turns in the last year, are

lying only third behind Labour

and the minority Liberal Demo-

pressed to win.

The boil must be lanced and it

in the Netherlands in 1991.

"I am not prepared to let it poison the political atmosphere any longer," Mr. Major told a

south of Baghdad.

process.

occupied territories and the recognition of the Palestinians' national rights is the only foundation for peace and stability in the

Middle East," the statement said. It also urged Palestinians in the occupied territories to continue their uprising against Israeli The council decides to pro-

vide all support and means to step up our people's uprising and the valiant resistance until victory is achieved and occupation is defeated." the statement said.

In Amman PLO officials said Palestinians, eager for agreement with Israel on interim self-rule in the occupied territories, are ready to skip preliminary stages.

The current peace process speaks of an Israeli-Palestinian agreement on a five-year period of self-rule with talks on the final status of the territories starting in the third year. "In view of the difficulty in

arriving at a concept and the landmarks of the final stage, let's cut short all the roads and negotiate a phased Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho." Saleh Ra'fat, Palestine Central committee members, told Reuters.

"The PLO is ready to accept a disengagement treaty, starting in its first stage with Gaza and parts of the West Bank leading to a phased implementation of U.N. Resolution 242 that calls for full

The high-level technical talks

will begin in New York in late

August, he said, and "the long-

term solution (on monitoring and

verification) will be one of the

topics to be covered, including

the question of the activation of

Security Council President

David Hannay of Britain wel-

comed the agreement, which he

said is "endorsed by the council."

The council considered the

arrangements," he said, noting

that Iraq's promise to warn the

U.N. commission in advance ab-

the United Nations to monitor

activity there had been a major

factor in the council's acceptance

government's acceptance of Re-

solution 715 dealing with "long-term monitoring and verification

... and welcomes the decision to

hold those talks and hopes that

they will be fruitful," Mr. Han-

However, the council con-

tinues to refuse to link the talks

(Continued on page 10)

All parties appeared relieved

that the gruelling parliamentary

although it still has to survive a

challenge in the high court that

could delay the process for sever-

as he left the chamber, the heary-

looking premier smiled and said,

The figures speak for them-

Only Britain and Germany

among the 12 EC members have

not yet ratified the treaty, which

test in a by-election in the south

coast town of Christchurch next

Thursday, when it is expected to

be defeated in one of its safest

seats by the Liberal Democrats.

cutting its parliamentary majority

Democrats' chairman, said it had

been confirmed in the last two

days of dramatic parliamentary

action that the ruling party was split and Mr. Major's authority

church - let's see what they bring," he said.

"Next week comes Christ-

was seriously damaged.

Charles Kennedy, the Liberal

The government faces a severe

requires unanimity.

Asked to comment on the vote

The council welcomes the Iraqi

of the arrangement.

these cameras.'

try that has repeatedly resisted terms "satisfactory interim

tors was leaving New York for out any use of the sites to enable

which its 11 partners in the Euro- ratification process was over.

al months.

selves.

tories occupied in 1967." he

Palestinians were expectred to offer the new proposals to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher when he tours the region from Aug. 1-5 to try and break the deadlocked Middle East peace talks.

"To save the peace process after it has reached a dead end is why we are raising now the issue of bypassing the interim stages to the final stage." PLO Executive Committee member Suleiman Najab said.

Israel and the Palestinians are still wrangling over the extent of self-rule. Palestinians want Arab Jerusalem to be placed under their jurisdication during the interim stage to ensure it becomes the capital of their future independent state.

Israel says Jerusalem is its "eternal capital." Syria urged U.S. President Bill Clinton Friday to emulate former President Dwight Eisenhower and persuade Israel to trade land

Referring to the 1956 Suez war by Israel, Britain and France against Egypt, Al Baath newspaper, organ of the ruling Baath Party, recalled that Mr. Eisenhower had urged Israeli Premier David Ben Gurion to

(Continued on page 10)

3,000 said to have fled south Iraq marshes

GENEVA (AP) — More than 3,000 people have fied apparent government offensives in Iraq's southern marshes and are escaping into Iran at the rate of 150 per day, a spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said Friday.

Spokeswoman Marie Okabe said a further 15,000 Shiite Muslims were reportedly waiting to cross the border into a remote part of western Iran. Supplies of food and water were said to be short in temperatures topping 50 degrees centrigrade, she said.

Ms. Okabe said refugees interviewed by UNHCR officials said they had fled shelling and artillery attacks by government

She said details were sketchy and it was unclear whether the refugees were Shiite rebels or women and children fleeing in fear of the alleged offensives.

Meanwhile a senior official with the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) said continuing economic sanctions against the Baghdad regime had caused tens of thousands of excess deaths among young children and was plunging the general population into ever-worse poverty. Thomas Ekvall, UNICEF's

representative in Iraq, told a news conference that the agency's own programme to provide aid to innocent civilians was threatened by an acute shortage of funds. He said UNICEF had received only about seven per cent of an

million. "There is a serious humanitarian situation and the funding for the programme to address that situation is not there," he said. Mr. Ekvall said the infant mortality rate had tripled as a result

appeal launched in April for \$86

rate of 92 per 1,000. In a recent report the U.N.'s Food and Agricultural Organisation warned that the country was on the fringe of famine.

of sanctions since the war to a

Iran's news agency reported government shelling in the marshes and a mass exodus over the border. The UNHCR report was the first independent confirmation of the refugee flow, but spokeswoman Okabe stressed the agency had no reliable information about the attacks.

Iranian attacks

Iranian warplanes bombed Kurdish rebel bases in northeastem Iraq Thursday while a large force of Revolutionary Guards attacked across the border.



Israel accuses Syrians of waging proxy war in Lebanon

day on the far north of Israel but did no damage, military sources

Israeli troops returned the fire, they said without elaborating.
On Thursday, Israel moved large numbers of troop reinforce-

ments into its "security zone" in

Ex-Defence Minister Ariel

Sharon called on Israel to deliver

an ultimatum to Syria warning

that unless it halts the attacks in

southern Lebanon the peace talks

"We must send a real ultima-

tum to Syria: No peace negotia-

tions unless terrorist operations are halted in Lebanon," the hard-line right-winger told Voice of

He also urged the army to

southern Lebanon.

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel accused Syria Friday of fighting a proxy war against Israel in Lebanon hoping to extract gains at deadlocked Middle East peace talks.

Guerrillas have killed six Israeli soldiers in July, the bloodiest month in nearly three years for Israel forces in Leba-

Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur, asked if Syria used the guerrillas as proxies, said: "They certainly exploit the Lebanon front to attack us and also to push us on issues that are important to them in the peace pro-

Israel and Syria have made little progress in nearly 21 months of peace talks. Syria demands total withdrawal from the Golan Heights seized by Israel in the

1967 war. Israel would not discuss the extent of withdrawal unless assured of full peace including open borders, free trade and

On Thursday, pro-Iranian guerrillas stormed Israel's selfproclaimed South Lebanon 'security zone" killing an Israeli soldier and defying two weeks of Israeli threats to retaliate for the killing of five Israeli soldiers on July 8 and 9.

Israel, despite hitting back hard with artillery and helicopters on Thursday, appeared intent on avoiding a massive ground assanlt.

The guerrillas, opposed to the U.S.-brokered peace talks, hope to scuttle them by provoking an all-out war with Israel.

launch a series of raids north of the "security zone" to queil the attacks. "These operations do not need to be on a large scale. The main

Israel radio.

thing is to put the terrorists on the defensive," he said, accusing Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of indecision." Israel's chief negotiator with

Lebanon at the peace talks, Uri Lubrani, echoed Mr. Gur in an interview published Friday. "The president of Syria.

(Hafez Al Assad), sits where he its rubbing his hands and others do the work of attacking Israel for him," Mr. Lubrani told the daily newspaper Yedioth Ahro-

"As long as the Golan Heights are untouched, Assad doesn't care who hurts us in the security zone. He believes that following pressure in the field we will be Several rockets fell early Frimore prepared for all sorts of

compromises," Mr. Lubrani said. Israel warned Syria two weeks ago — via U.S. officials — to restrain guerrillas by blocking weapons transfers from Iran. Mr. Gur dismissed recent Sy-

rian warnings that Israeli action against Lebanon would be seen as move against Syria. 'That Syrian threat ... does not influence our decisions. What is influential is to be sure that when we take the decision it is indeed

the ... right date, the right approach, he told army radio. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is due in the Middle East on July 31 in a bid by Washington to edge forward Israel's talks with Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinians.

Hizbollah claims achievement

A leader of the Shiite Muslim Hizbollah said Friday that the militia has seized the military initiative from Israel in South Lebanon.

Sheikh Naim Oassem, second in command in of the Iranianbacked Hizbollah (Party of God) also repeated the group's call for Lebanon to withdraw from the Middle East peace process.

"Yesterday's onslaught and the lessons it entailed have proved that we have wrested the initiative from the enemy," Sheikh Qassem said.

He added: "We shall continue our resistance, irrespective of the peace negotiations, until the enemy is totally dislodged from its so-called security zone.

(Continued on page 10)

2 more arrested in alleged New York bombing plots

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE, New Jersey (Agencies) — The Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) has arrested an Egyptian man wanted in connection with an alleged plot to blow up the United Nations building and busy New York City commuter tunnels, and a man accused of harbouring him. '

Matarawi Mohammad Saleh, 44, also known as Wahid, was arrested Thursday night at a sea-side motel in North Wildwood in southern New Jersey, FBI Agent James C. Esposito said Friday.

Another Egyptian national, 31-year-old Ashraf Mohammad, was also arrested there for allegedly harbouring Mr. Saleh. The two were held overnight in the Cape May County jail and were to be arraigned later Friday in Camden, New Jersey, said FBI spokesman Jim Laub.

The arrest brought the number of alleged bombing plot conspir-ators in custody to 11. Prosecutors say they have hours of surveillance tapes with plotters discussing bombing targets and

explosives-making efforts.

A longtime informant helped authorities break up what they called a ring of fundamentalist Muslims with international connections.

Mr. Saleh has been a fugitive since he was charged along with eight others in the conspiracy, the FBI said in a statement.

Eight people were arrested

raided a New York City house he disappeared. where five men allegedly were mixing explosives. They were accused of plotting to bomb the United Nations, the Holland and Lincoln tunnels beneath the Hudson River and a federal building housing the FBI. Mr. Saleh was indicted under

the name Wahid although he remained at large. Another man was arrested June 30 in Philadelphia. And a new indictment July 14 added one of the men already under arrest in the Feb. 26 World Trade Centre bombing to the list.

Dispute over reward

A U.S. government plan to offer up to \$2 million for information on a missing suspect in the ported Friday.

The disagreement between the State Department and the FBI still not offered a reward for information about Ramzi Ahmad Yousef, the newspaper said, to get this one sorted out," the quoting officials.

quoting officials.

Mr. Yousef is believed to have fled to Iraq soon after the Feb. 26 attack. The New York Times said the officials said privately they feared the United States may

have squandered a crucial chance

Authorities have described Mr. Yousef as a central figure in the bombing plot and he has been the subject of an international manhunt for nearly four months. But while the State Department and the FBI have agreed a big award should be offered for his capture. each agency has insisted it is unable to provide it, the daily said.

The stand-off has left U.S. investigators and Congress members increasingly frustrated since the State Department first turned down an FBI request to provide the award, the newspaper said. The FBI is responsible for combatting terrorism at home while the State Department is charged

with fighting it abroad. "This should never have been trade centre bombing has been an issue," a congressional official stymied since mid-April by a row over what agency should foot the bill, the New York Times re-

would have gone a long way." A State Department official who insisted on anonymity said has meant the United States has on Thursday night the department was trying to find a way to issue the reward. "We've just got

> Congress first gave the secretary of state the power to issue up to \$1 million rewards in 1984. But the terms of the legislation, which

(Continued on page 10)

Israeli officials do not rule out talks with PLO

TEL AVTV (AP) — Israel is with the PLO, while Washington moving towards direct contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), but officials

say the time is not quite right. "We can only benefit from contact," Vri Orr, a leading legislator, told Israel radio Thursday. "I am happy to speak to who can

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres also would not rule out such contacts but said Israel and the PLO needed to find common ground beforehand.

The remarks represented a softening of Israel's official view of the PLO as a "terrorist" organisation. Labour ministers have said a silent majority of Israelis would support such contacts.
PLO officials and Israeli media

have speculated in recent weeks that Israel and the PLO are on the verge of direct talks. The speculation was only fuelled by official Israeli denials that were qualified and late in coming.

Israel will only sit down to negotiate peace with Palestinians from the occupied territories. Nonetheless, Palestinian negotiators at the U.S.-backed Middle East peace talks openly receive their orders from the PLO's Tunis headquarters, and Israeli legislators belonging to the ruling coalition have met with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Direct contact with the PLO could shake up the U.S.-backed peace talks, stalled over the issue of sovereignty over Jerusalem. Mr. Orr, chairman of the par-

liament's powerful foreign affairs and defence committee, would not reject talks soon. "If talks with the PLO can advance things, it is worth speak-

ing with them," he said. But Mr. Orr expressed some concern about whether Mr. Arafat was a strong and credible enough partner for dialogue, given his shaky standing among

the organisation's hardliners. Mr. Orr's comments were significant because he is close to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabinwho has refused direct talks with

The Haaretz daily newspaper

negotiates differences over a position paper on the peace talks

with the Palestinians. The Palestinians want assurances that the issue of Jerusalem be discussed now at the peace table, not later, as the Americanshave proposed.

The Haaretz report said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was bringing all-new proposals to the region when he visits in August, which are designed to circumvent the Jerusalem issue, but still please the Palestinians.

Haaretz also reported that Mr. Peres' deputy, Yossi Beiling, would ask Greek leaders while in Athens this week to press the PLO to back down from insisting on discussing Jerusalem now. Greece has traditionally close ties with Palestinians.

Dayan, Darawshe head for Tunis

AFP adds: Labour Party maverick Yael Dayan and an Israeli-Arab parliamentarian set off for Tunis Friday to meet Palestinian leader Mr. Arafat, correspondents at Ben Gurion airport re-

Ms. Dayan, who met Mr. Arafat last January shortly after Israel lifted a ban on contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said she would try to set up a meeting between other Israeli members of parliament and PLO officials to further the cause of peace.

She was accompanied by Abdul Wahab Darawshe, head of the Arab Democratic Party which has two seats in parliament, a frequent traveller to PLO headquarters in Tunis.

Mr. Rabin voiced disapproval of the initiative, but did nothing to try to block it, parliamenta-

Health Minister Chain Ramon said Ms. Dayan has "no mandate" from the party and was carrying no official message.

Seven Labour Party ministers and four from Mr. Rabin's leftwing coalition partner Meretz. out of a cabinet of 18 members. cited senior Israeli sources as back direct peace talks with the saying the Americans requested a PLO, according to Labour legisdelay in direct Israeli contacts lator Hagai Meron.

Financial crunch forces Al Fajr to close

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Palestinian newspaper Al Fajr, for 22 years a mouthpiece for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), announced Friday that it was closing for lack of cash.

"Al Fajr newspaper will stop being published as of tomorrow, Saturday, as a result of an order by its owner and publisher Paul Ajlouni, said the front page of Friday's

edition, the paper's last. "Our staff were detained. the offices were bombed, and the paper was banned from publication numerous times by the Israeli authorities," said Ali Al Khalili, an editor who worked for Al Fajr for

17 years. "Unfortunately, this time it's closing down out of its

The PLO has been short on cash since the Gulf war, forcing a number of Palestinian Institutions to go out of busi-

Al Fajr, which gained fame after its founder Yousef Nasri Nasser disappeared in mysteincurred the wrath of Israeli authorities over the years for fiery editorials and columns

in support of the PLO. Israeli police and secret service agents raided its offices and detained staff. The military censor monitored its news and articles more closely than other

Two other Palestinian dailies continue to publish. The most widely circulated is Al Quds. The other is Al

Al Fajr was the second of four Palestinian dailies to go under this year. The shutting includes Al Fajr weekly, the only Palestinian English language outlet in Jerusalem.

Editor Hanna Siniora said the era of newspapers paid for by the PLO was over. "This is hard and bitter,"

Mr. Siniora told the Associated Press. "I am afraid it is would see such a day."

In its frontpage farewell. the newspaper said, "Al Fajr had reflected the national aspirations of our great peo-

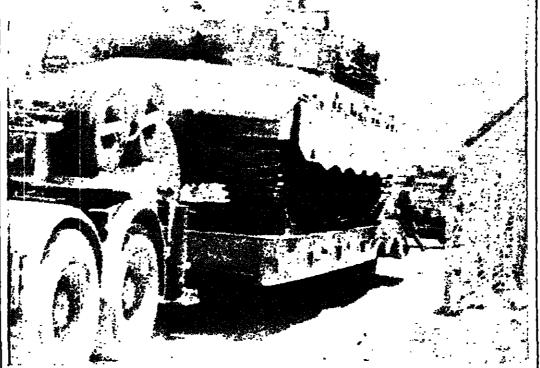
Publisher Ajlouni, a wealthy Palestinian who lives in New York, ordered its closure in June in a letter to its 38 employees for financial and political reasons, Mr. Khalili said.

Gulf states cut off their financial support for the PLO after its Chairman Yasser Arafat backed Iraq in the Gulf war. All institutions including universities, hospitals and other services have been delaying salary payments and

slashing staff.
Mr. Siniora said shutting the newspaper was a "lesson for us to start commercial and not political journalism."

have often been caught between Israeli censorship and their own loyalty to the Palestinian cause. Censorship prevented widespread reporting on Arab-Israeli tensions, while sponsorship from the PLO meant little criticism of internal politics. Most readers said they bought the pap-"He called for immediate and ers for the obituary and mar-

riage pages.
Time has come to start commercial journalism," said Radwan Abu Ayash, the former head of the Arab Journalist Association.



REINFORCEMENTS: An Israeli tank convey crosses the Israeli-Lebanese border Friday as the Israeli army reinforces its positions in its self-styled

"security zone" waiting for a government decision on whether to retaliate again st resistance attacks which left six soldiers dead in the past two weeks

Dramatic increase in shooting deaths of Palestinian children

By Karin Laub The Associated Press JABALIYA, Occupied Gaza Strip — Ten-year-old Issat Matar was flying a homemade kite on a dusty square when a playmate threw a stone at two passing Israeli army jeeps.

Palestinian witnesses say the jeeps stopped, a soldier climbed down and fired at the fleeing boys, wounding Issat in the back of the head. Issat died Tuesday, two days later, becoming the 41st Palestinian under age 16 to be shot dead in the occupied territories since December.

In the 12 months before December, 17 Palestinian minors had been killed in shooting incidents. This year's sharp increase is fuelling mutual distrust at a time when Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations are at a deadlock.

Each side Wednesday accused the other of using children as a tool to heat up the atmosphere and exert pressure in the talks.

Deputy Defence Minister Motta Gur, defending the army actions against left-wing the Palestinians were intentionally sending their children to the front lines of Palestinian protests.

He bristled at suggestions that soldiers deliberately shot at children. "It's a blood libel," Mr. Gur said.

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi, commenting on Issat's death, said the army's iron hand was a deliberate Israeli strategy to win concessions at the negotiating

"Israel... persists in human rights abuses as a means of exacting a political price," she

KHARTOUM (Agencies) —

said in an interview with the Associated Press.

The Israeli human rights organisation Betselem said last week that to June 8, 232 Palestinian minors have been killed by troops in the occupied territories since the Palestinian uprising began in this refugee camp on Dec. 9, 1987.

Two others besides Issat were killed in July, bringing the total to 235.

Betselem said troops increasingly use live ammunition, even when children are present. It said that of 38 children killed between Dec. 8 and June 8, only six were shot dead in situations that posed a danger to soldiers' lives.

The army doesn't dispute the death toll. But an army statement said soldiers are not permitted to shoot at anyone under 15 and that most children killed were in "large rioting crowds, near armed terrorists... Or in circumstances where soldiers didn't know children were there."

In a brief statement on Issat, the army said he died at Israel's Tel Hashomer hospital being wounded. It said it was still investigating who fired the fatal bullet.

In Jabaliya, incidents like the one that claimed Issat's life have a lingering affect.

Outside the green funeral tent where family and friends gathered to mourn Issat, children watched with a mixture of awe and fear as three hooded men stopped traffic and sprayed painted slogans on walls declaring Issat a martyr.

"I want to be like the masked men, but I'm also afraid of them," said 13-yearold Khalil Madhoun.

An hour earlier, Khalil and his friends had burned a tyre near the tent in hopes of attracting soldiers for a confrontation. He said he was disappointed they did not

show.
But 10-year-old Ismaeen Awad, who witnessed the shooting of his friend Issat, said he was afraid of soldiers and reluctant to leave the house.

Ismaeen's father, Hassan, said his son has been sleeping in his parents' room for the past two days and suffered from nightmares. "Two nights ago, he was shouting in his dream "get down, Issat, get down," the elder Awad said. Among the adults, there is great bitterness.

"I cannot forgive the Israelis for what they have done, even if there will be peace," said Issat's aunt, Naam, 30.

Sitting on the floor of the room Issat shared with three brothers, she sifted Issat's belongings, among them a picture album. One photo showed Issat sitting in a toy jeep in a Tel Aviv amusement park, her Issat with his family a a restaurant in the Israeli resort town of Tiberias.

"I took him on trips to Israel to show them that Jewish and Arab children are the same,' said Issat's father, Amer.

The aunt interrupted in anger: "Why are the Israeli children playing in parks and eating in restaurants, and our children are afraid to leave the house?"

On top of the closet in Issat's room stood the octagonal skeleton of a kite that Issat was making. It was like the light blue and pink one he was flying Sunday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait, France in agreement on arms deal

BAHRAIN (AP) — Kuwait and France were reported Thursday to have reached an agreement in principle on a \$530 million arms deal. The London-based Al Hayat newspaper said Kuwait will purchase 10 Torpedo boats and surface to air missiles from France. It said France also will recondition Russian artifety pieces that Iraqi forces left behind when the U.S.-led coalition drove them out of Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf war. The terms were outlined in a "memorandum of understanding" signed by the two governments, said Al Hayat, which also is printed in Bahrain. In Paris, a defence ministry official would not confirm that a memorandum had been signed but said it was "not impossible." The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, added: "Because of the commercial war that exists, especially with the United States, the negotiations remain very secret." France sent the third-largest force, behind the United States and Britain, to operation Desert Storm, which liberated Kuwait in February 1991 from a seven-month Iraqi occupation. Kuwait has since signed security pacts with the United States, Britain, France and Russia. French Defence Minister Francois Leotard visited Kuwait a few weeks ago amid reports the French government was interested in pushing military sales. Al Hayat said another French delegation was negotiating with Kuwait to sell \$88 million worth of spare parts and ammunition for Super Puma helicopters, which Kuwait already has. The paper said the French will be "offsetting" some of the cost of the arms deals with joint ventures in Kuwar Training will be included, it said.

Israel deports Russian prostitutes

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel has expelled nine Russian prostitutes for there own safety after they testified against gangland pimps, the interior minister said Friday. "We have to deport the girls because their lives will be in danger," Prosecutor Gail Vigotsky. Or told a Tel Aviv hearing Thursday after four pimps had been released on bail. The prostitutes had faked Jewish identity to emigrate to Israel in December 1992. Two Russian employees at the Israeli embassy in Moscow who helped the nine had been sacked, the ministry said.

Egyptian soldier executed for killing woman

CAIRO (R) - An Egyptian soldier was executed by a firing squad for killing a 70-year-old woman in 1990, security sources said Friday. They said Mazen Al Samman, who was executed Thursday, was convicted and sentenced to death by a military court in December 1992 for strangling Nabawiya Al Sayed. Ahmad and stealing her jewellery. Military courts have also sentenced to death 21 Muslim militants after convicting them of conspiring to overthrow the government of President Hosni Mubarak. Fifteen of them were hanged during June and July.

France backs Morocco's 'new contract' with EC

RABAT (AFP) - French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur said Thursday he welcomed moves towards democracy by Morocco, and pledged his country's help in reaching a "new contract" between Rabat and the European Community (EC). Speaking during a one-day visit to the Moroccan capital, Mr. Balladur praised "the constant broadening of Moroccan democracy," and the country's "remarkable economic progress." He indicated he would discuss the issues with his Moroccan counterpart Mohammad Karim Lamrani during talks Friday, as well as exchanging views on French-Moroccan relations, the Middle East and former Yugoslavia. Mr. Lamrani said he remained "convinced that Morocco and the EC will be able to overcome any barriers and find, on a basis of trust ...the balance needed to develop a beneficial partnership." Mr. Balladur, speaking at a dinner in his honour, praised relations between France and Morocco, pointing out that his visit was his first official trip to a Muslim country since he took office earlier this year.

Baha'is accuse Tehran of razing cemetery

PARIS (R) - France's Baha'i religious community Thursday accused Tehran city officials of razing a historic Baha'i cemetery.

The Baha'is, members of a religion founded in Iran in the 19th century, said in a statement that work to destroy the cemetery began a month ago. It said Tehran's municipal authorities ignored pleas from Baha's across the world and have speeded up work to raze the burial site. Baha'i families in Iran were not contacted and coffins had been exhumed and taken to an unknown destination, the statement added. Many Muslims consider the religion a heretical deviation from Islam and Baha'ism is banned by Iran's Islamic authorities, which preach religious tolerance.

France accepts Leila Shahid as PLO envoy

PARIS (AFP) — The French government has approved the appointment of Leila Shahid as the Palestine Liberation Organisation's new representative in Paris, Foreign Ministry spokesman Richard Duque said Friday. Leila Mounif Shahid, currently the PLO's information bureau chief in the Netherlands, was the PLO leadership's choice to replace Ibrahim Souss. Born in Beirut in 1949, she holds a masters degree from the American University in

King Fahd's elder brother dies

DUBAI (R) - The elder brother of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd died Friday, the palace said. A statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency said Prince Saad, 70, had been suffering from an unspecified long-term illness. Prince Saad was the oldest living son of Saudi Arabia's founder, the late King Abdul Aziz, who in 1932 merged two parts of the Arabian Peninsula, creating a new

Pakistani beheaded for drug smuggling in S. Arabia

RIYADH (AP) - Saudi authorities Friday beheaded a Pakistani man convicted of trying to smuggle drugs into the kingdom, the latest in a wave of executions criticised by international human rights activists. The Interior Ministry identified the man as Suweider Juango Mohammad Hassan. It said the drugs were found in the man's shoe. It gave no other details. The beheading was carried out in Jeddah. Two men, an Afghan and a Pakistani, were beheaded last Friday on similar charges.

Rebels report Iranian air and land attacks

Iranian opposition group, Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, claimed Friday that several Iranian airforce fighter-bombers launched an air raid against Iraqi Kurdistan. The Iranian Revolutionary Guards also launched a ground offensive against several border regions, targetting Iranian Kurds and Iraqi Kurds, it said in a statement faxed to the Jordan

Massoud Rajavi, the president of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, urged the United Nations Security Council to impose an arms and oil embargo against "this anti-human regime to prevent the mullahs from evading the repercussions of their a wide security zone on both sides persistent violations of international laws," the statement said.

"Crossing international borover the "no-fly" zone between 5:30 and 6:30 a.m. local time this morning, the clerical regime's fighter-bombers bombed the headquarters of an Iranian Kurdish group, Kumaleh, villages in the Iraqi Kurdistan and our fellow Kurdish Iranians in these decisive international measures

regions," it said. Revolutionary Guards launched a ground offensive against said. several border regions in Iraqi

AMMAN (J.T.) - The main it said. "They murdered innocent people, took hostage and looted their properties.

According to the statement. the guards made a two-pronged advance from the north and south of Penjwin in Iraqi Kurdistan, capturing an area more than seven kilometres deep. "Simultaneous with these

attacks, today the commander of the Khomeini's regime's state security forces announced that the regime has set up 182 new border posts," the group said.
It quoted Mr. Rajavi as saying "by bombing, shelling and sup-

pressing innocent civilians and forcing them to leave their homes, the regime seeks to create of the international border." Recalling Iranian attacks against Mujahedeen bases as well

ders in violation of Security as the bombing and shelling of Council Resolution 598 and flying Iranian Kurds in Iraqi Kurdistan since last July, Mr. Rajavi "emphasised that the Security Council's silence vis-a-vis these blatant aggressions has further emboldened the mullahs to continue these crimes."

> to prevent the persistence of these aggressions," the statement No independent confirmation

Kurdistan, including Kanaro re-gion in northeast of Suleymaniah, reported by the Mujahedeen.

Nile River barges loaded with more than 3,000 tonnes of relief according to reports reaching controlled. Khartoum Palestinian newspapers have been sent to two southern The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) took up towns where tens of thousands of refugees have gathered, an offiarms in 1983 against the Muslimfor peace and rehabilitation, said cial newspaper reported Friday. dominated government. The re-Awad Khalifa, Sudan's com-

missioner of relief and rehabilitation, told the daily Al Sudan Al Hadith that 600 tonnes were sent to Malakal and 2,800 tonnes are expected in Bor in the next couple of days. Recent fighting between rebel factions has driven tens of

thousands of southerners from

their homes. Many have fled to

Malakal, capital of Upper Nile

province 690 kilometres south of Khartoum, and Bor 370

ZARQA:

Overseas Calls ...

Central Amman Telephone

Abdali Telephone Repairs ...

kilometres farther south. Both tween rival SPLA factions, towns are government-

Boats ferry relief to south Sudan

bels want reforms that would give the Christian and animist south a greater share in Sudan's economic and political life.

Recent fighting between at least two SPLA factions has worsened the plight of Sudan's six million southerners, hundreds of thousands of whom have died from fighting or starvation during

Thousands of people have recently fled rebel-held areas be-cause of intensifying fighting be-tions.

Jordan Electricity Authority ... 815615 Electric Power

Queen Alia Intl. Airport..... 08-53200

Bdalla Deng Nihal, the Khartoum government's new minister

relief food had to be transported to hundreds of people who had left rebel ranks and gathered around Malakal in southern Sudan. Mr. Nihal said some 100,000 people around Malakal are in

need of urgent food assistance. An upsurge in fighting between the rebels was reported from Sunday in the region around Kongor, a town south of Malakal which is one of the key centres for the work of foreign aid organisa-

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO Envoye Special News in French News in Hebrev

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PRAYER TIMES

CHURCHES Assemblies of God Church, Tcl. 632785. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De le Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terrasuncta Church Tel: 622366 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541. Anglicas Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543. Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331. St. Ephraim Church Tcl. 771751. Annuan International Church Tcl. 652526.

Evangelical Latheran Church Tel: 824328. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tcl. 823824, 654932 Church of Nazarene Tcl.675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of

It will be fair with temperatures below the annual average and a rise in humidity will take place. Some clouds will appear at low altituded and winds will be westerly to northwesterly nod-erate, freshening at times. In Aqaba, winds will be necked fresh and sear winds will be northerly fresh and seas

Min/Max. temp. 17 / 28 22 / 37 13 / 32 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 39, Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent. Aqaba 15 per

248056

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY** AMMAN: Dr. Abdul Qader Al Laia Dr. Mahmoud Amir Dr. Abdul Aziz Taboun Firas pharmacy Ferdows pharmacy Al Asema pharmacy 661912 637055 Nairoukh pharmacy Al Salam pharmacy 636730 Naiib pharmacy

EMERGENCIES Civil Defence Department Civil Defence Immediate 630341 .. 891228 .. 775121 Highway Police Traffic Police Public Security Department Hotel Complaints Price Complaints 630321 Water and Sewerage Complaints mman Municipality 897467 787111 Telephone Information (directory assistance)

HOSPITALS AMMAN: AMMAre:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn ... 64281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn ... 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 636140 Palestine, Shmeitani Shmeisani Hospital University Hospital ... Al-Mussher Hospital The Islamic, Abdali 845845 667227/9 The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt, Hospital (09)983723
Zarqa National Hospital (09)980560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)99090
IERATO: 666127/37

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275 Iba Al Nafecs Hospital.... (02)247100 AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** INTERNATIONAL

> This information is supplied by Royal lordanian (RI) information depart-ment at the Oueen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where is should always be verified.

AIRPORT

Royal Jordanish (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) . Jakarta, Singapore (RJ) New Delhi (RJ) Karachi, Dubai (R.I) 11:00

.... New York, Amsterdam (R1) Frankfurt, Vienna (R1) London, Berlin (R1) Other Flights (Terminal 2) Sansa (IY) Rome (AZ) 21:45 Dubai, Damascus (EM)
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MARKET PRICES

440/340

5207/350



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Thursday meets with directors of public works departments in

Majali orders reemployment of 180 public works employees

per diem workers dismissed by the Department of Public Works in Mafraq last Monday are to be returned to their jobs, according to a decision by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali.

Al Ra'i Arabic daily said the decision was taken following a sit-in staged by the workers infront of the ministry building in Amman and at the department in wiya Al Ve Mismissal. Mafraq in protest against their

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The prime minister discussed the issue during his visit Thursday to the Ministry of Public Works and ordered that they be returned

to their jobs, the paper said. The ministry had decided to lay-off these workers because it alleged they had been neglecting their duty on the one hand and because of sufficient allocations for the department in Mafraq on

the other, the report said. Describing the decision as

and staged the sit-ins, which drew the attention of the prime minister through Mafraq Deputy Mohammad Abu Alim and Minister of Public Works and Housing Khalaf Hawari, said the

Mr. Abu Alim said that the premier was concerned about the fate of the dismissed workers and instructed the ministry to reemploy them.

According to the report, Dr. Majali had said that the workers should receive their pay in full and that guarantees must be given for their continued employ-

Mr. Abu Alim met with the workers' representatives urging them to fully shoulder their duty and display at spirit of cooperation with the Mafraq Public Works Department.

Also Thursday, the prime minister met with directors of public Housing Khalaf Al Hawari.

resenting the dismissed workers works departments around the lodged a protest with the ministry Kingdom and urged them to tackle problems facing their departments through dialogue and

cooperation. Dr. Majali said participation in decision-making, defining prob-lems and taking initiatives with-out fear would help obtain the best results.

He encouraged the directors to take initiatives and said their sincere and serious work in serving the public interest would make them a model for their employees, which would consequently increase and improve production.

The prime minister stressed the need to concentrate on priorities while preparing service projects

He also called for encouraging research work and creativity of the civil servants in accordance with their responsibilities.

The meeting was attended by minister of Public Works and

Tawjihi results drop 2.1 per cent

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Tawjihi results AMMAN — 12WJIII results announced Friday by Minister of Education and Higher Education Khaled Al Oman showed a 2.1 per cent decline in the number of successful students compared with last year's results.

Addressing a press conference, the minister said only 49.2 per cent of the 73,242 registered students passed the examination this year compared to 51.3 per cent last year.

Only 67,028 male and female students out of the registered total actually sat for the examinastudents who passed was 33,003, said Dr. Omari.

The students had sat for examinations in the literary, scientific, commercial, agricultural, industrial, nursing and hotel management courses.

According to the minister, out of the total registered Tawjihi students, 48,935 were regular students attending classes at private and public schools; the rest were studying at home.

The minister, who congratulated the successful students, announced that he would soon organise a ceremony to honour

respective courses.

He also announced that the results of students of the Israelioccupied West Bank schools would be published Monday, noting that those results are very close to the results of the students in Jordan.

The ministry has continued to supervise and organise examinations for the West Bank students despite Jordan's 1988 severance of administrative and legal ties with the occupied territory.

Meanwhile, the Council of Higher Education has endorsed a general plan for the distribution

wishing to pursue their higher education to state-run universi-

tied in the 1993-94 academic year. Council sources said a total of i0,022 students will be accepted at the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University, Muta University and Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

The sources said the number of undergraduate acceptances this year will equal those of last year. They said that 1,968 post graduate students will be accepted in these universities for

masters and doctoral program-

Missing boy held in police 'red tape'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - A 14-year-old reported missing two weeks ago had showed up at Irbid police station on the same day saying he was lost, but police procedures took six days before he was returned to his family, relatives said

"The boy is safe and sound and back with his family," a relative, who identified himself only as Marwan, told the Jordan Times when reached by telephone Friday, "He was with Irbid police for three days and then spent another three days with Amman

police before we got him back." Samer Mohammad Musa, who "disappeared" on Friday, July 9, while on an errand in Zarga market where his father Mohammad Musa runs a locksmith shop, had a family tiff earlier in the day and had left for his uncle's house

in Irbid, the relative said. "The boy got lost in Irbid and surrendered himself to Irbid police the same evening," Marwan said. The boy was not available to talk to the Jordan Times

Marwan said the boy had identified himself and provided all details of his background to Irbid police. It was not clear why the boy did not go to his uncle's

house in Irbid and why he chose

to go to the police.

According to the relative, the boy spent three days in Irbid under police protection before he was transferred to Amman police, who contacted his family three days later to hand him over. "In any case, we are happy we

have the boy back, and that is all that matters to us," Marwan said. There was no immediate explanation as to why it took so long for police to return the boy or contact the family, which had gone on a wild-goose chase after registering a complaint with Zarga police and consulting a divinator who said the boy was in Al Wihdat camp outside Amman.

The affair came to light when the family put a missing notice in local Arabic-language newspapers on Monday, July 12.

Concern over the welfare of the boy, the eldest of six siblings, mounted further with revelations that he was last seen in the company of "two strange men" in Zarqa market and mysterious telephone calls to contact numbers given in the advertisement asking whether the boy was found.

The Public Relations Department of the Public Security Department (PSD) said it had no details of the affair.



But informed security sources said police could have been investigating possibilities of chile abuse before returning the boy to the family.

"The usual procedure in such cases involves an investigation whether the child was subject to abuse at home before he or she is returned to the family," said a an Irbid phone number given in security source, who preferred an advertisement said the boy anonymity.

The source, however, could home. not say whether the procedure relatives as not having any record ance

Other sources said police routine and procedures also prevented any given police station to act upon its own initiative to return missing children origina ing in areas beyond its jurisc ...-

"The concerned police station has to go through the proper channels and contact its counterpart in the area of residence of the child," said a source.

The Zarqa case was the third reported affair involving a missing child in the past three months. In the two earlier cases, a nine-year-old boy was found killed in a cemetery in Russeifa, northeast of Amman, and a close cousin was reported to have confessed to the murder; in another case, an eight-year-old girl was also found murdered after being raped in Aqaba, and a suspect was reported to have confessed to

the crime. Another "missing" case was advertised in local papers last month, but a man who answered reported missing had returned

The man refused to give any was followed in the case of Sam- details except that family prober, who was earlier described by lems were behind the disappear-

Press department to sue new weekly; editor says paper may sue minister

By Ayman Al Safadi

Jordan Times Staff Reporter AMMAN - The Department of Press and Publication is taking a recently established Arabic language weekly to court for allegedviolating the Press and Publication Law, the newspaper and Ministry of Information sources

said Friday. The department is suing Al Bilad weekly for publishing news reports that "harm national unity and security," that violating Arti-cle 40 of the Press and Publication Law which came into effect in May this year, the sources said.

The paper however "might" counter the government's case against it by suing Minister of Information, Ma'an Abu Nowar for allegedly "threatening and levelling insults at" the chairman of its board of directors Nayef Al Toureh during a meeting that took place at the ministry of information in the presence of the lirector of the Press and Publication Department, Issa Al Jahmani, earlier this month, Al Bilad Senior Editor Mohammad Tommaleih told the Jordan Times

In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Thursday and made available to the Jordan Times by Al Bilad Friday, Mr. Toureh claimed Dr. Abu Nowar "bluntly and illegally interfered" in the affairs of the newspaper, the first edition of

which appeared on July 7. "I announce my astonishment at, and condemnation of the aggressive way in which (the minister) talked to me," during the meeting which took place at the official request of Dr. Abu Nowar and Mr. Jahmani, Mr. Toureh said in the letter.

The minister's "warnings" to Mr. Toureh "included direct threats," the letter claimed. "These are absolute lies," Dr.

Abu Nowar told the Jordan false and that he made no threats of the country." against him.

The minister said he merely advised Mr. Toureh to obey the mitted to the freedom of the press law and that Mr. Toureh was and "encourages" constructive eventually "very receptive" to criticism that respects the law. He the advice even though Mr. said Mr. Toureh's claims are Toureh claimed he had walked completely groundless.

out of the meeting in expression of his anger at the minister's remarks.

"That did not happen," Dr.

Abu Nowar said. Dr. Abu Nowar said Mr. Toureh had agreed with him during the meeting on the need to follow the law and expressed appreciation for and understanding of the advice he offered him.

Al Bilad's editor denied allegations that his paper, an independent weekly with a declared capital of JD 7,500 had violated the law or "harmed national unity and security," in what it has reported in the two editions it issued since its presses started

rolling earlier this month. Mr. Toureh called on the prime. minister to correct the actions of the Ministry of Information Times Friday. He said Mr. which he alleged have "deviated Toureh's claims are completely from the democratic orientation

> Dr. Abu Nowar said however that his ministry has been com-

Strategy seminar to focus on water issues in Jordan

Jordan will be organised Monday at the Professional Association Complex, according to an announcement Friday.

Ministry

to stamp

local

meat

imported,

AMMAN (J.T.) - As of to-

day (Saturday) meat imported

by the Ministry of Supply and sold in the Kingdom will carry

a red stamp; local meat will bear a blue stamp, according to

ministry announcement. The announcement said the marks will be stamped by the

Amman Municipality's slaughter house which slaughters im-

ported sheep from Australia

and other countries and anim-

als by local livestock breeders.

meat now sells for JD 2.6 to

JD 2.75 per kilogramme and local meat sells for JD 4 to JD 6 per kilo.

Meanwhile, a delegation

representing the Australian Meat and Livestock Corpora-

tion concluded three days of

talks with Jordanian govern-

ment officials in Amman and

Australian embassy sources

said that Australia is giving the

municipality's slaughter house

meat chiller worth

The chiller is to be installed

Last week the Ministry of

Supply issued a ban on Búlga-

rian meat because of alleged

reports that the Balkan state's

cattle had been inflicted with the

contagious hoof and mouth

disease. But officials said that

the ban would cause no

hardship on consumers as the

ministry had sufficient supplies

of other imported meats.

before the end of 1993.

left for home.

JD 200,000.

Imported Australian fresh

Marwan Tell, of the Jordanian which is organising the meeting, said delegates representing the ministries of Water, Energy, Agriculture, Tourism, Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment along with the Department of Housing will take part in the discussion.

Working papers to be reviewed at the seminar, which will be opened by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Mohammad Al Farhan, will focus on water, energy, minerals, the atmosphere. agriculture and housing, said Mr.

Emphasis, he said, will be placed on water supplies, waste and contamination of water resources in Jordan.

AMMAN (Petra) - A seminar licences for artesian wells in Joron a national strategy for the dan, leakage in the old water protection of the environment in networks and unorthodox uses of water will be reviewed in the papers, he said.

Mr. Tell said 79 per cent of the country's water supplies are being used for irrigation, 20 per cent for Engineers Association (JEA) domestic use and one per cent for industry.

The amounts for domestic use can be boosted to 42 per cent and . for industry to six per cent if farmers adopt drip irrigation methods to save on water consumption, said Mr. Tell.

Recent studies on the performance of the waste water treatment plant at Khirbet Al Samra, 39 kilometres northeast of Amman, and the resultant treated water, estimated at 120,000 cubic metres daily, will also come under scrutiny, he said.

Mr. Tell said legislation on the environment backed by a data bank providing information about such matters can help planners and decision-makers protect Questions related to issuing the country's environment.

CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE: by educational delegations, researchers, teachers Ministry of Planning Secretary General Safwan and students on scholarships and to exchange books

youth, information, social development and tourism fields. The two sides agreed to exchange visits sports

Touqan and South Korean Ambassador to Jordan and organise joint exhibitions. They will also Han Li Thursday sign an agreement to implement a exchange information about primary health care, cultural and scientific programme from now and infectious diseases and exchange television and until 1995. The agreement provides for cooperation radio programmes on health and social matters and in the education, higher education, health, sports, expertise related to tourism, traditional handicraft, special education for the handicapped, youth and

Regent congratulates Oman, Egypt

AMMAN (Petra) - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday sent a cable to Sultan Qaboos Ben Saeed of Oman congratulating him on his country's Nahda (renaissance) anniversary. Wishing Sultan Qaboos continued good health and happiness and the Omani people further progress and prosperity, Prince Hassan commended Jordanian-Omani relations and voiced pride in them. The Crown Prince sent a similar cable to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to congratulate him on the June Revolution anniversary.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Trade officials in Lebanon for talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saket Thurday started a three-day official visit to Lebanon during which he will hold talks with Lebanese officials on ways to bolster economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries. Dr. Saket is accompanied on the visit by a delegation comprising Jordan's Ambassador to Lebanon Fakhri Abu Taleb and Director of the ministry's Economic Cooperation Department Asem Al Hindawi.

Lawyers head for Baghdad to meet counterparts

AMMAN (Petra) - A delegation representing the Jordan Bar Association (JBA) left Amman for Baghdad Friday on a week-long visit to Iraq at the invitation of the Iraqi Bar Association. JBA Vice-President Ziad Al Khasawneh said the visit aims to enhance cooperation between the two associations and to exchange views on legislation governing the profession in Jordan and Iraq. A series of meetings will be held between officials from the two associations in the future with the obejctive of enhancing Arab cooperation, Mr. Khasawneh said.

Panel prepares for International Family Year

AMMAN (Petra) — A national committee drawing plans for the Kingdom's celebrations of International Family Year will hold its second meeting Monday under the chairmanship of Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Sqour. The committee is scheduled to discuss public and private preparations for the year and arrangements for the occasion. The committee was formed following the Declaration of 1994 as an international year of the family in accordance with U.N. General Assembly Resolution No. 44/82 for 1989.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Art exhibition by Syrian artist Sakhr Farzat at the Balka Art Gallery, Fuheis City.

★ Art exhibition by Jamai Khmeish and Jihad Abu Suleiman at the Housing Bank Gal-

* Art exhibition by Fadwa Al Nabulsi at the Phoenix Art Gallery. ★ Exhibition of a new collection of art works by Princess Wi-

idan Ali at The Gallery, Hotel

Jordan InterContinental. ★ Exhibition of paintings and ceramics by Ali Al Mi'mar, Hazem Al Zu'bi, Abdul Raouf Sham'oun and Jalal Ureiqat at Eshbeelia Art Gallery, 6th Cir-

cle, Amra Shopping Centre. Art exhibition by Rana Dia and Mohammad Kadoumi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

☆ Lecture, in Arabic, entitled No Capitalism, No Socialism" by Dr. Jalal Amin at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6.30 p.m.

JERASH FESTIVAL

Arabic play entitled "Ahlan Arab Summit" at 8.30 p.m. at the South Theatre of Jerash (starring top Jordanian comedians Nabil Sawalha and Hisham Yanis).

☆ Concert by Bashar and Ayman Zarqan at 8 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.



MOSAIC UNCOVERED IN JERASH: The recently discovered Byzantine mosaic floor in the heart of the city of Jerash measures 4.5 by 5.75 metres. Department Director Safwan Tell, who inspected the find Thursday, said the unearthed floor, is part of a larger floor lying 2.5 metres under a street. The mosaic floor depicts human animal and plant designs, he noted. The floor was found by the department excavators on land owned by a local resident. The land lies amidst a residential area.



officials meet with United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) representatives. The minister d the relations between the ministry and UNRWA. Dr. Omari said the ministry is particu- ministry to UNRWA schools in Jordan and thanked larly concerned with schools in the Kingdom, considering them the basic unit of the educational

JPA, editors to form panel

AMMAN (J.T.) - The Jordan Press Association JPA council on their legal and political views, the old and should be updated.

chief editors stressed their support of the association and the need to develop it. The JPA council (JPA) Council and chief editors of newspapers on its part stressed that political newspapers are owned by political parties Thursday agreed to form like any other newspapers and should be treated a joint committee to discuss recent resolutions likewise. The council said any differences existing taken by the JPA on ways to deal with political between the JPA and the political newspapers are publications. After handing a memorandum to the of a legal nature and the current JPA laws are now

Bou Shoushi praised the support extended by the

officials at the ministry for their keenness to bolster

cooperation betwee them

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Dangerous sea change!

A MOMENTOUS change, a change of seismic proportions in U.S. policy on the Palestine problem apparently became official on Wednesday, June 21, according to an answer given by Secretary of State Warren Christopher at a press conference in Washington before leaving on an extended foreign tour which will bring him to

The quite specific question was put by a senior correspondent of the Associated Press: "Is it U.S. government policy that the West Bank and Gazza, and East Jerusalem, is occupied territory?" Blinking nervously, as is his wont, the secretary refused to say, "Yes" without saying "No", in one of his usual, long rambling answers. The words he used were: "The status of the West Bank and Jerusalem were under active negotiation" and he did not want to get involved in the details.

Ever since the end of June or early July Washington has been letting slip that the West Bank and Gaza were no longer considered 'occupied territories' but "disputed territories,' sovereignty over which had yet to be negotiated. Now that hugely important, but so far, covert shift in policy has been almost officially confirmed and by no less a person than the secretary of state.

This could be the end of the foundation of the so-called "peace process," which since 1967 has been resolutions 242 and 338. Those two resolutions have been referred to so often as having become a sort of semi-mystical mantra, a ritualistic chant. And because the territories were "occupied" the corollary was that, sometime, they would be vacated and returned to the former owner, Jordan, or to its successor, the PLO. Hence the talks about the principles of "land for peace" and "the inadmissibility of the isition of territory by force."

Any negotiation about sovereignty in and ownership of Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, in which the U.S. has a part, will nevitably end up with sovereignty being awarded to Israel with the U.S. foursquare behind it, which will assert its ownership also because, in the meantime, Israel would have forcibly appropriated most of the territory anyway.

That result of the U.S. abandonment of 242 is bad enough, but it is limited in extent. Yet there is a much larger ill-effect unlimited in scope. By stepping back from a Security Council resolution which the U.S. itself helped to draft, which the U.S. voted for in the council, and which successive U.S. administrations have made the bedrock of their West Asia policy — only last year President George Bush repeated the fact that East Jerusalem was "occupied territory"— the Clinton administration has undermined, perhaps fatally, the entire U.N. system.

That system is about contentious issues being brought to the world body which debates them, produces resolutions, which, when passed, are at least supposed to be observed and implemented by member states; especially if they are mandatory council resolutions like 242. After what Christopher said on Wednesday, however, U.N. resolutions will become like items of food on a buffet table — some can be chosen and others neglected, according to choice and taste. For 26 years 242 "tasted" all right to the U.S., but since the Clinton administration took over it no longer does so and can be put aside.

The world has become used to changes of policy and of personnel in the U.S. when the Democrats take over from the Republicans or vice-versa. But there has to be continuity of certain basic principles, like the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. Otherwise the international community would collapse into chaos and would not be a "community" because no one single country would know, for more than a few years at a time, where

any other country stood on any particular issue.

It could be argued that the abandonment of 242 has come about because the Clinton administration's West Asia policy is now firmly controlled by American Jewish pro-Israeli Zionists who fill almost all important policy positions in the State Department, the White House and the National Security Council.

But faced with this abandonment of the basic principles of the peace process and of the Madrid formula, the only effective response that the Arabs, and especially the Palestinians, could give would be a final withdrawal from that process, and a refusal to return to Washington for the 11th round of the talks.

Every country that in any way depends on Security Council resolutions should take note of the grave dangers produced by the U.S. abandonment of 242.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'l Arabic daily demanded a clear, United Arab stand vis-a-vis the open threats addressed at Lebanon and Syria by Israel. A clear stand is required at the moment to counter the arrogant and threatening stand of the Jewish state and its leaders who continue to issue statements implying an imminent incursion into Lebanon, said the paper. Arab countries involved in the peace process have a prime responsibility in this case and should take a collective stand and expose the Israeli position to the whole world, demanded the paper. Arab countries which are keen on pursuing the peace process and attain a just peace ought to make constructive moves at the regional and international levels to counter Israeli threats and preempt any aggression that is mainly aimed at thwarting the world community's efforts to achieve a just peace in the region, continued the daily. In their excuse for issuing the threats against Lebanon and Syria, the Israeli leaders cite the continued Lebanese resistance attacks on the Israeli troops and their allies in southern Lebanon, recalled the daily. It said that the Lebanese have the right to resist occupation of their country and combat aggression directed against them by Israel and its allies. The paper said that the world is watching the Israelis massing their troops and their tanks along the border with Lebanon in preparation for a fresh aggression. It demanded prompt intervention on the part of the world community to put an end to Israel's ocupation and Israel's defiance of international

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily compared the United States and its arrogance with Hitler's Germany, which had similarly attempted to dominate world affairs. Abdul Rahim Omar said Hitler's actions and . pansionist designs in Europe led to a world war causing so men a destruction and loss of life. The second and final phase of the 2 th century is witnessing a repeat of historical events represented it. Washington's attempts to dominate the world and in Israel's cor : nued occupation of Arab lands and eviction of Arab inhabita in defiance of all principles and international legitimacy, said he writer.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

Hamas-Fateh rapprochement — fruitful or futile?

THE current dialogue between Hamas and Fatch, that started in Amman on July 15, 1993, exemplifies the question "Who outwits whom?" Both sides are keen on manipulating the other by the best maximalist formulae. Hamas, led by a current resident in Tehran, Imad Al Alami, is determined to discredit the PLO through these talks. Meanwhile, Fateh, led by a former resident of Iran, Hani Al Hassan, is equally enthusiastic to use manipulative gestures to extract concessions from Chairman Yasser Arafat. Both sides thought it was an opportune time to deviously use

each other to minimise losses to maximise gains. The background of this story does not date back to the first Hamas-Fateh dialogue which should have started in Khartoum on Nov. 16, 1992. It is actually much more recent, since the time when many Fatch Central Committee members found themselves marginalised by the recent developments within the Fateh decision-making hierarchy. The list of those who felt themselves neglected included many well-known names who used to be instrumental in all Fatch affairs prior to the third round of Arab-Israeli peace talks. The list included names of those of Hani Al Hassan, former PLO ambassador to Khomeini's Tehran, Subhi Abu Karsh, Abu Al Munther, Abbas Zaki (Abu Mishaal), Mohammad Jihad, Mohammad Ghoneim (Abu Maher), Selim Al Za'angun (Abu Al Adeeb), Sakher Habash and Abdullah Al Ifranji). This block of Central Committee members, though a very volatile block, expressed their resentment, during the June 10 meeting in Tunis, of the organisational set-up that is applied now with the PLO's higher echelons of power. They distrusted the larger-than-life roles being given to Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen). Nabeel Sha'ath, Hakam Bala'awi and Ahmed Qureeie (Abu Al Ala'a). They were very critical of the conciliatory neutral role taken by the supposedly number two man within the PLO, Farouq Qaddoumi (Abu Al Lutf), who is expected to handle all

foreign issues including the ones pertaining to the peace process. Though Mr. Arafat threatened to resign during the verbal confrontation within the Central Committee's heated debates, the old guards managed to extract two compromises. The first was an admission of alleged financial improprieties; consequently, Mr. Abu Karsh was entrusted with chairing an investigation committee. As for the second concession, it was a Palestinian national dialogue committee which was granted a mandate to discuss with Hamas as well as the other ten Damascus-based Palestinian factions the possibility of finding ways and means to coordinate

But the crux of the issue regarding the PLO and the majority of the factions, including Hamas, is the Madrid peace formulae. Both sides are poles apart in their perspectives on and expectations of the peace components. So what is that requires a new

When the Hamas 3-man delegation arrived at Abbas Zaki's Fateh offices in Amman on July 15, 1993, Mohammad Nazzal and Sami Abdul Fattah were adamant in their demand for a PLO immediate withdrawal from the peace talks, while Adnan Samara, Nasser Yousef, Abbas Zaki and Hani Al Hassan were not enthusiastic advocates for the peace talks. It was evident throughout the talks that the old PLO guard, led by Al Hassan, is exerting a determined effort to defeat the PLO young turks led by Mr. Sha'ath and Mr. Abbas. Their analysis is that weakening Mr. Arafat might be conducive to weakening his strong support of the Sha'ath-Abbas axis and consequently would lead to a Hassan-Zaki emergence as the stronger echelons who stopped "deviations and aberrations."

The Hamas assumption considers weakening Mr. Arafat as a pre-trial run to defeat the whole PLO within the rank and file of the Palestinian people both within the West Bank and Gaza and among refugees in camps in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the

The first call for a Palestinian national dialogue did not come from Hani Al Hassan and his Central Committee. It was actually articulated for the first time by Hamas in December 1992, as part of a five-item agenda submitted to the Sudani mediator, Dr. Hassan Abdullah Al Turabi, who tried the first reconciliation efforts in Khartoum. This mediation effort followed the incident of Nov. 16, 1992 when Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghosheh (Abu Omar) refused to shake hands with Mr. Arafat who had arrived in Khartoum. Then, Mr. Ghosheh's excuse for his action was that the Hamas martyrs' blood in Gaza, spilled by Fatch assassins, was

The deportation of 419 Palestinians to Marj Al Zohour in Lebanon, forced Hamas and Fatch to resume the reconciliation talks which had been patronised by the Sudani leader Turabi. One round of talks took place in November 1992; the second one was supposed to take place on Jan 4, 1993. Mr. Turabi, then, forced the Hamas delegation to stay put for one whole week waiting for Mr. Arafat's delegation. Hamas then set the stage for this meeting by announcing its willingness to join the PLO umbrella without having a precondition any withdrawal from the peace talks with Israel. Furthermore, Hamas announced its acceptance of a gradual solution to the Palestinian problem through a Palestinian state to be established on just any part of the territory. Those statements by Mr. Nazzal, on Jan. 2, 1993, were interpreted as forming common ground with Fateh with the aim of facilitating the Khartoum dialogue. The statements were a turning point in the Hamas-Fateh relationship since the bloody July 8, 1992, when over 53 Palestinians were seriously wounded in severe armed clashes between thousand of followers of the two main groups in

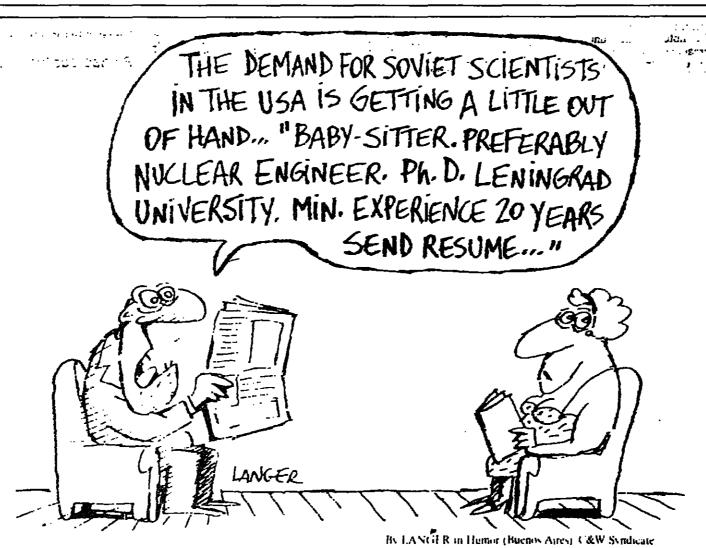
It is noteworthy in this respect to remark that the Khartoum meetings in early January 1993 were chaired by Mr. Turabi, Salim Za'anoun from Fatch and Musa Abu Marzouq from Hamas. Both Mr. Abu Marzouq and Mr. Za'anoun used to be active Muslim Brotherhood members, while Mr. Turabi is still one of the leaders of the Sudani Muslim Brotherhood.

When Mr. Arafat himself arrived in Khartoum and joined the meeting, he was asked to announce his acceptance of an all-Palestinian national dialogue in order to see the real number of those who are against the peace process. Mr. Arafat was asked to agree to what was called an "Armed Struggle Coordination Committee" within the occupied territories. A third demand by Hamas was a PLO withdrawal from the peace talks. Nothing materialised in spite of the typical Arab exchange of "brotherly kisses and verbal commitments to honour words.

In conclusion, the frequent recurrence of rapprochements and dialogues between Hamas and Fatch for the last two years give one indication that they all lead to a dead end. The futility of previous contacts is partially ascribed to the diametrically opposed ideological backgrounds of a secular Fateh and an Islamic Hamas. A Fateh with a peace agenda in mind can not

tolerate a militant Hamas with jihad for the concept of liberation.

The Amman meetings of the two main Palestinian organisatisons, though adjourned for a week, will once again prove to be futile.



Deadly waste

By Murray Feshbach

There may have been far more Chernobyls in the former Soviet Union than ever known, and the threat to local and even foreign populations may still be signifi-

Last April 6 an accident occurred at the east Siberian city of Tomsk-7, resulting in the release of radioactive contamination into the atmosphere.

Tomsk-7 is one of 10 formerly closed, or "secret," nuclear cities of the former Soviet Union - or perhaps (if you include chemical and biological warfare activities) one of the 16 secret cities; or perhaps as many as 87 - all numbers propounded by sources in the former empire.

There and elsewhere, the problem of radioactive contamination is long-lasting, and the danger may be much higher than ever admitted.

The word "secret" is used in the sense that the cities were closed, were not shown on any Soviet map, were not counted in the population or the labour force, and their activities not

authorities until last year. Then, at a May 1992 meeting in

Stavanger, Norway, Viktor Mikhaylov, the minister of Atomic Industry of Russia, indicated that these secret cities were part of the military-nuclear industry. Concern over a nuclear brain drain and the control of nuclear materials is in part the underlying

rationale for much of the foreign

aid going to the former Soviet But much of the old network is not controlled, as witnessed by the growing number of attempts to smuggle out nuclear materials. Moreover, we are just beginning

to learn about the stockpiles of

nuclear and chemical materials at these secret cities and facilities. Among the most hazardous materials we know about is dimethylhydrazine, also called heptyl, a liquid rocket fuel used for Russian missiles. It is classified as supertoxic, carcinogenic, nerve paralysing and volatile. What is not known is how all this material is safeguarded. There

may be 150,000 tonnes of heptyl

in these closed cities, in missiles

stationed elsewhere, in produc- north near Severodvinsk, the tion etc., but no technology exists for dealing with it.

In this matter in particular, technical assistance should be given only with great caution, with special attention paid to the recipients. Too many examples in the former Soviet Union exist of individuals such as the former director of the South Ukrainian Nuclear Power Plant, who turned off the safety valves three times in the past year despite all the stringent, post-Chernobyl regulations, He was fired — finally — but only after the third such incident.

We are learning more about the dumping of radioactive waste and seeing more evidence of its presence: nuclear subs with live reactors and control rods; three ships in Murmansk harbour with radioactive waste; radioactivity coursing through the Ob and Yenisey rivers of Siberia towards

the Arctic Ocean. In addition, there are about 160 nuclear submarines awaiting dismantling - and with a bad track record of accidents, including the release of radioactivity in the Sea of Japan area and in the

nuclear submarine-producing port. Severodvinsk has recently been reclassified as a closed city. One should note, in addition, the 115 so-called "civilian" nuc-

lear explosions since the mid-The tasks involved in cleaning

up, of disarmament and dismantling, of defusing and detoxifying, are enormous. We need bilateral and multilateral approaches in order to be successful. Failure to do so leaves at risk much of the earth: Europe, Japan, the U.S., Canada, the Middle East.

The U.S. does not have enough money for all of these requirements, but it does have the technical capabilities, management and environmental leadership to help the new members of the international community with their staggering problems.

All the aid packages in the world will not help Russia and the rest of the former USSR resolve their economic and political dilemmas if they are undergoing environmental and health disasters at the same time - The Jerusalem Post.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Confederation —a choice hinging on Israeli withdrawal

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE Arabic daily newspapers in the past week tackled the Middle East, the projected Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, the continued embargo on Iraq and domestic

A confederation between Jordan and Palestine concerns the Jordanians and the Palestinians alone and this can only emerge after the end of Israeli occupation, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

The paper said that the Israeli leaders are continually dwelling on the confederation issue in a bid to distract attention from the real issue of occupation and to divert world public opinion from the situation in the occupied lands.

The real issue, the paper said, is the continued occupation by Israel of Arab lands, in defiance of U.N. resolutions. and not the future relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian people which is strictly the concern of the Palestinians and Jordanians

Mohammad Kawash commented on the confederation issue by noting that Israel is keen on seeing this confederation take place now in order to prevent the creation of an independent Palestinian entity.

Israel does not want to recognise the Palestinian identity and therefore it is advisable for the Arab side to postpone talk about the confederation until after a peaceful settlement has been reached, said the writer in Al Dustour.

Despite the fact that the U.S.-Israeli alliance is known to be totally opposed to any unity between any two Arab states, this alliance is keen on a confederation between Jordan and Palestine, said Sawt Al Shaab daily

The paper: said-that Israel and the United States refuse to discuss the question of Jerusalem, which Israel considers as its eternal capital, and both want to see the West Bank joining with Jordan without the Holy City so as to escape the prospect of discussing the Jerusalem question during the

ongoing peace process.

These views were echoed by Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, who said that any talk about a confederation is a form of pressure exerted on Jordan and the Palestinians who strive to ensure the complete Israeli withdrawai from all occupied lands. A confederation is prema-

ture and should hinge on and follow the completion of Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab lands, demanded the writer.

Tackling the same topic, Saleh Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour said that the joint Jordanian-Palestinian higher committee is currently discussing coordination between the Palestinians and the Jordanians at the peace process and not paving the ground for a confederation.

The Jordanians and the Palestinians have maintained very close links, based on geography, religion, common destiny and goals throughout the ages, with or without a confederation, said the writer. He said that the Jordanians and the Palestinians form one nation and a strong unity that no foreign aggression can dis-

rupt.
Instead of implementing U.N. resolutions, Israel is trying to find means to prevaricate and come up with different suggestions, like with-drawing from Gaza first, said Mahmoud Rimawi,

The columnist, who writes for Al Ra'i daily, said that it is Israel's refusal to implement U.N. resolutions that rendered the 10th round of the peace process futile.

The Israelis are continually offering new ideas to escape the crucial issue of withdrawing their troops from the occupied lands and to escape any discussion about the future of Jerusalem which they claim should be the undivided capital of Israel.

Saleh Al Qallab said that U.S. Secretary of State War-ren Christopher, who plans a tour of the Middle East soon, is expected to suggest that the peace process be resumed at the level of foreign ministers. The writer, who writes for Al Dustour, said Mr. Christ-

gest that a confederation between Palestine and Jordan be implemented so as to facilitate the peace process and make it achieve sucess. But he said that this will be circumventing the question of Jerusalem, which the Arabs insist should be discussed while Israel adamantly refuses to include it on the

Mr. Christopher is coming here because his envoy. Dennis Ross, has failed to achieve any headway in the peace pro-cess, said Sawt Al Shaab daily.

Numerous visits to the region by envoys, foreign minis-ters and even heads of state have failed to bring about largely due to Israel's intransigence, said the paper.
It said that if the U.S. admi-

nistration seeks to achieve success, it ought to send Mr. Christopher with new proposals that would force Israel to comply with the international legitimacy, otherwise, Mr. Christopher's mission would be doomed like that of Mr.

Fahd Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i, commented on the ongoing U.S. threats against Iraq, noting that the sanctions, could kill a few Iraqis but can by no means bring about a change of the country's lead-

The writer said that with their rocket attack on Baghdad last month, the Americans are providing evidence that they are after the Iraqi people, killing them and destroying their homes, but not hurting Iraqi leadershio at all.

"The Israeli leaders are continually dwelling on the confederation issue in a bid to "distract" attention from the real issue of occupation and to divert world public opinion from the situation in the occupied lands. The real issue is the continued occupation by Israel of Arab lands, in defiance of U.N. resolutions."

With the aggression, the feeling of natred towards the Americans is deepened and continues to deepen with the continued sanctions on the Iraqi people.

Al Ra'i columnist Tareq Masarweh said that the Iraqis are bound to face more acts of aggression from the Americans. Washington's lunatic racism is at its highest level now and nothing stands in the way of further acts of aggression against the people of Iraq under any pretext of protecting the Kurds, inspecting Iraqi scientific installations or any

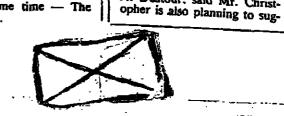
A columnist in Al Ra'i said that the present government holds no power to bring about any change to the present Elec-tion Law now that a Royal decree has been issued for holding the elections.

The present government can only determine the date for holding the election without issuing a temporary law.

Michael Jumeian, a guest columnist in Al Dustour, urged heads of political parties to make their stand clear and declare their platform to the public so that the voters will be able to know exactly who they should give their votes to in the coming elections. Furthermore, the writer said, the public has the right to know the names of candidates from each party to avoid confusion, especially as most parties hold

similar views. Noting that the turnout at registration for elections is still very low, Ahmad Dabbas, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily, said that the political parties concerned with the coming elections ought to join hands with the government in urging the electorate to regis-

The writer said that the government should also offer facilities to the public and remove obstacles in the way of registration by cutting down on



By Gene Gibbons Reuter

WASHINGTON - President Bill Clinton has cleared the decks for dealing with Congress on the U.S. economy by settling a crisis at the FBI and compromising on gays in the military, but he may also have fed his image as a president who can be pushed around.

Mr. Clinton's decision to let homosexuals serve in uniform as long as they remain celibate and silent about their sexual orientation was a far cry from his 1992 campaign pledge to lift the ban on

gays outright.
When he announced the policy on Monday in a speech to senior military officers, Mr. Clinton acknowledged it was "not a perfect solution" to the longstanding controversy and "not identical with some of my own goals,"

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Clinton gains little with action on gays, FBI But his room for manoeuvre on the explosive social issue was limited by his own avoidance of millitary service in the Vietnam war and by opposition in the Pentagon and Congress.

Mr. Clinton angrily defended his efforts on Tuesday, saying during a radio interview that his agreement to compromise was 'not a sign of weakness."

"I am the first president who ever took on this issue. Is that a sign of weakness? It may be a sign of madness, sir, but it is not a sign of weakness," he told a Wisconsin broadcaster who asked why he backed-down on his campaign

"I think we need to get our heads on straight about what is strong and what is weak," Mr. Clinton added. "When a president takes on tough issues, takes tough stands, tries to get things done in a democracy, you might

not get 100 per cent," He testly argued that compromise is "what democracy is about. Read the United States constitution. It's about honour-

able comprimise, and that is not weakness if you are making prog-

Thomas Mann, a political expert at Brookings Institution, said Mr. Clinton had been "caught in a lose-lose situation. It's unfortunate the issue had to come to a head at a time when the budget negotiations are entering their

What Mr. Clinton called his "honourable compromise" leased no one. Gays were among his strongest supporters in the 1992 presidential election, but now many of them are outraged.

Conservative groups have also blasted the president, charging that his new policy will only encourage hypocrisy.

One senior army officer said privately that Mr. Clinton would have been better off had he dealt with the issue when it first arose a few days after he took office last January because he would have thereby established himself as a decisive leader

Political analysts give him higher marks for his sacking of William Sessions as FBI director on Monday and his nomination of New York Federal Judge Louis

Freeh to replace him on Tuesday. Mr. Freeh, 43, is a former FBI agent and Justice Department prosecutor with a reputation as a crime-buster.

But Mr. Clinton acted only after Mr. Sessions' battle to hang on to his job had become an embarrassing distraction for the new administration. When given an ultimatum to resign or be fired last weekend, he said he would

not leave voluntarily.
"It's not being difficult, it's a matter of principle," Mr. Sessions said. "It's a matter of being certain that everybody understands... that this director is not guilty of unethical or improper conduct and that the bureau must not be anything other than an independent agency.

The power struggle has gone on since January when the Justice Department's internal watchdog unit, the Office of Professional Responsibility, accused Mr. Sessions of abusing the privileges of his office for personal gain.

Attorney General Janet Reno said the matter was allowed to drag on for so long because she wanted to be sure that "no political consideration whatsoever" was involved in the change of leadership at the FBI.

"I wanted to review the matter

independently. I feel very very strongly that the director of the FBI should be above politics, and that there should not automatically be a change in that position when a new administration comes into office," Ms. Reno told re-

Still, Mr. Clinton's settling of the gay rights row and the Sessions affair reminded some of his reluctance to act on other issues, such as the Haitian refugee problem, the use of force in Bosnia and the uproar over his nomination of Lani Guinier to be assistant attorney general for civil

His mettle will be tested again in the House-Senate negotiations on a compromise package of tax the soaring federal deficit.

If he gets a package generally in line with what he sought. \$500 billion in deficit reduction as well as job-creating investments to spur the economy - his handling of the gay rights and Sessions affairs will likely fade from mem-

But Mr. Chinton is already backing away from the broadbased energy tax that he persuaded many reluctant House members to support as an essential ingredient of his budget plan. He is expected to accept a Senate-backed petrol tax instead.

During an exchange with reporters later on Tuesday, Mr. Clinton defended his presidency. saying "any time you have to

hikes and spending cuts to reduce make tough decisions after people have been fed sugar for a long

time, it's not going to be easy, Reminded that most opinion polls show his popularity at a lower level than any of his predecessors this early into their terms, Mr. Clinton compared his progress in the first lap of his presidency with that of other U.S. leaders.

"I would like for you to go back and analyse the first six months of the previous administrations and tell me who got more done in six months. If you can tell me, I'll be glad to hear it. If there isn't anybody you can find who's done more, then we need to examine why the American people don't know that," Mr. Clin-

U.S. lawmakers review consular procedures

WASHINGTON (USIA) - The House of Representatives of Foreign Affairs Committee, continuing a series of hearings on U.S. anti-terrorism policy, Thursday reviewed State Department consular procedures leading up to the issuance of visas to Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman and other foreign nationals belonging to what the U.S. see as international terrorist organisations.

Representative Tom Lantos (Democrat-California), the committee chairman, castigated committee and staff members for 'leaks" to the New York Times from a June 30 briefing by U.S. officials, warning that U.S. officials would in the future decline to testify in such instances if their econfidentiality could not be respecied by Congress.

Mr. Lantos also stressed that the finding of State Department Inspector General Sherman Funk is that "there was no complicity" by any individual employed by the U.S. government in helping the sheikh gain entry to the United States.

Testifying with Mr. Funk in the hearing were Mary Ryan, assistant secretary of state for consular affairs, and Michael Cronin, assistant director for operations at the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS).

Mr. Funk, in a declassified report on his investigation and in responses to questions by committee members, said he has concluded from documents he examined and interviews with over 30 present and former U.S. embassy employees in Khartoum and Cairo that the sheikh obtained visas and later received permanent resident status "because of inadequate systems of control, inadequate execution of ontrols already in place, and inadequate enforcement of immigration laws, regulations and

guidelines. "The appeal procedures available to the sheikh under current immigration law have effectively stalled actions to deport him until a few weeks ago," Mr. Funk pointed out. That situation has now changed "because of the arrests made on June 24, 1993. and the apparent tie-in of individuals arrested to Sheikh Abdul Rahman, his current detention in a federal facility and the recent dismissal of his appeal by the

Board of Immigration Appeals." Mr. Funk said that while the second phase of his review of procedures is still in progress, his investigation has led him to a number of disturbing conclu-

He said that, in his view, a discrepancy exists in the State Department's interpretation of the 1990 Immigration and Naturalisation Act and the intent of Congress in passing legislation that does not specifically exclude prospective immigrants who are members of known "terrorist" organisations.

There is no clear guidance from the department for proactively identifying and preemptively placing the names of ineligible persons or persons thought to be ineligible for a visa in the Department's 'lookout system'," Mr. Funk said.

"Seven million aliens apply for non-immigrant visas every year," Mr. Funk said. He said in a large visa-issuing post, "consular officers may have only 10 or 15 seconds to interview each applicant and make a preliminary decision on whether or not to issue a

Rep. Olympia Snowe, citing a second major visa case confronting the government, cited the case of Vatchagan Petrossov, a Russian criminal and drug trafficker who was on the Russian version of Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) "most wanted" list, who was given a visa in Riga, Latvia, only weeks after being denied a visa at the U.S. embassy in Moscow. On the basis of that expired visa, Ms. Snowe said, he applied for and was given permanent residence status, and



Sheikh Abdul Rahman enters his apartment building with an unidentified man on June 25 after afternoon prayers at his mosque (AFP photo)

he has now established - "with tainted funds" - a restaurant and bakery in Denver, Colorado, where he currently lives.

"How many more U.S. citizens must die or be injured before we take note of the fundamental bureaucratic flaws which exist in our consular system?" 1 Snowe asked. She also expressed concern and disbelief at the financial burdens such illegal immigrants place on government. Ms. Snowe said it costs an average of \$30,000 from the U.S. and an average \$60,000 to house every jailed illegal immigrant in the federal prison system each year.

She said that at present, over 300,000 such cases await dis-

The New York Times reported Thursday, that Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officers reviewed all seven applications made by Sheikh Abdul Rahman to enter the United States between 1986 and 1990 and only once turned him down because of his connections-to terrorism, the paper quoted government offi-

cials as its source. The disclosure reveals far more extensive CIA involvement than has previously been known in granting the Egyptian cleric a U.S. visa on as many as four separate occasions, it said.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman's followers include central suspects in the World Trade Centre bombing, and his entry into the United States followed what Clinton administration officials have described as an appalling series of government blunders.

The failure by CIA officers to identify Sheikh Abdul Rahman as.

a potential threat in six of the seven cases is outlined in a classified version of the report by the State Department's inspector general, who testified about its unclassified findings Thursday.

On two occasions, the officers rejected the applications, but for other reasons, such as failure to provide the address of a sponsor in the United States or to purchase a round-trip airline ticket, the New York Times said.

Officials from the administration and Congress who have been briefed on the findings said there remained no indication that the CIA officers' actions were anything more than mistakes. In each case, they said, the CIA employees were reviewing the applications in assigned roles as consular officers in U.S. embas-

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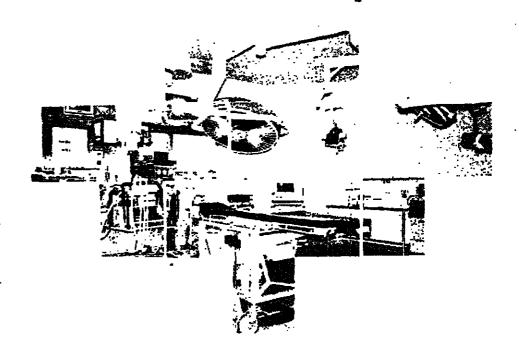
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Jordan's foreign exchange payments rise by JD 495m

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) issued foreign exchange permits estimated to be worth JD 2,771.8 million for goods and services during the year 1992, up from JD 2,276.4 million in 1991, figures released by the CBJ showed.

The figures include payment for merchandise and services as well as the cost of servicing foreign debts and repatriation of return on foreign investments and transfer of foreign workers in the

The latest statistical bulletin of the CBJ said foreign exchange permits worth JD 1,907.1 million were issued during the year for goods and JD 864.7 million for services. This compares with JD 1.505.1 million for goods and JD 771.3 million for services during

The bulletin said the U.S. accounted for JD 518.6 million of the permits - with JD 165.4 million in goods and JD 353.2 million in services. These figures compare with JD 356.6 million — JD 126.2 million in goods and JD 230.4 million in services — for the

The European Community (EC) countries collectively accounted for JD 910 million -JD 699.4 million in goods and JD 210.6 million in services — during the year compared with JD 683.8 million — JD 490.2 million in goods and JD 193.6 million during the previous year.

Arab countries were the beneficiaries of exchange permits worth JD 549.1 million - JD 309.5 million in goods and JD 239.6 million in services — issued during 1992.

These figures compare with JD 597.5 million - JD 331.1 million in goods and JD 266.4 million in

Non-EC countries accounted for JD 187.9 million - JD 173.9 million in goods and JD 14 million in services — during 1992, compared with JD 144.6 million - JD 119.6 million in goods and JD 25 million in services — in the

Other countries were the beneficiaries of exchange permits worth JD 606.2 million — JD 557.9 million in goods and JD 48.3 million in services — issued during 1992, compared with JD 493.9 million - JD 438 million in goods and JD 55.9 million in services — in 1991.

The CBJ bulletin said foreign exchange permits worth JD 787.6 million - JD 538.5 million for goods and 249.1 million in services — during the first three months of this year.

A further split-up showed that the U.S. accounted for JD 206.5 million - JD 150.9 million in services and JD 55.6 million in goods --- followed by the EC with JD 194.9 million — JD 138.8 million in goods and JD 56.1 million in services in the first

Arab countries accounted for JD 195.5 million — JD 166 million in goods and JD 29.5 million in services - during the same

Non-EC countries were the beneficiaries for JD 29.2 million -JD 25.9 million in goods and JD 3.3 million in services while other countries collectively accounted for JD 162.2 million in goods and JD 9.3 million in services.

Saudis and Iranians trade accusations over weak oil prices

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AFP) - Saudi Arabia, in a strong reaction to Iranian calls to return to its pre-Gulf war production level, blamed Tehran Friday for

the decline in oil prices. Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer said Iran produced in June more than 277,000 barrels per day (b/d) above its quota of 3.34 million b/d set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) for the third

"All oil publications unanimously agree that Iran exceeded its quota by more than 277,000 b/d in June. By doing so, Iran is solely responsible for the fall in prices," Sheikh Nazer said after meeting OPEC President Jean Ping. He also restated Saudi Arabia's commitment to its own OPEC quota.

His remarks, carried by the official Saudi Press Agency, came two days after Iranian oil minister Gholam Reza Agazadeh called for production cuts by OPEC's Gulf members who raised output

during the Gulf war to make up for a halt in Iraqi and Kuwaiti

It said Saudi Arabia's production of eight million b/d was not justified as its pre-war quota was

Sheikh Nazer fired back that the Iranian allegations of Saudi overproduction were "just a cov-er for Iran's continued violation of its OPEC-assigned quota."

mittee referred to the Iranian contraventions at two recent meetings of oil producers, he their level in early June.

Saudis Arabia, the world's biggest crude exporter which produces nearly one thrid of OPEC's output, also came under fire Thursday by the Tehran Times which reflects government think-

The market monitoring com-

"We always hear the same promises of a better life, promises

that are quickly forgotten when

23,000 jobs in the Kurdish-

Paris, Bonn wheel out big guns to defend franc

PARIS (R) — France and Germany promised Friday to defend the French franc from an increasingly fierce speculative attack that threatens to blow apart the European Community's semi-fixed currency grid.

In a statement released by the French finance ministry, the government and central banks of Germany and France said the franc's rate against the German mark corresponded correctly to economic fundamentals.

"Together with their European partners, they will continue to cooperate according to the rules of the European Monetary System (EMS) exchange rate mechanism (ERM)," the statement said.

home the message by jacking up its overnight lending rate to 10 per cent from 7.75 per cent.

Edouard Balladur told Reuters Thursday in Rabat during a visit to Morocco: "There will be no (franc) devaluation."

U.N.: Developing world foreign investment to double by 2000

LONDON (R) — Flows of direct foreign investment to the developing world could double to around \$80 billion by the year 2000, according to a United Na-

tions report. The scenario is based on expected rapid growth in Asia and Latin America.

Overall growth in global flows of foreign direct investment, slowed by recessionary trends in industrial countries in the last two years, is expected to increase

again in coming years. The world investment report published by the United Nations flows to developing countries reached \$40 billion in 1992, up from \$25 billion five years earlier.

Investment is concentrated in Asia and Latin America with Africa receiving only \$2 billion last year. It says investment in Asia and Latin America is growing rapidly in part as an alternative to investments in regions of slow growth in the triad, the United States, Japan and the European Community.

The report says that by last year, the global stock of foreign direct investment had reached Conference on Trade and De- around \$2 trillion, generating

world exports of \$4 trillion.

One per cent of the world's 37,000 transnational companies own half of the total stock of foreign investment, the report "Transnational corporations are a powerful force for binding national economies together," it notes.

The report says transnational corporations have an important role in the growth of investment because they embody a package of growth-enhancing attributes capital, technology, managerial

velopment (UNCTAD) says \$5.5 trillion of sales compared to and organisational know-how and access to international markets

But it notes that foreign direct investment has concentrated on triad countries and clusters of developing countries around each

The report says developing countries must try to upgrade their economies by attracting transnational corporations with specialised activities such as data processing, software writing or configuring their policy regimes to conform with a large neighbour, as in the case of Mexico and the United States.

triad member.

U.S.-Europe ties at watershed, group says

common path" for the United States and European Community (EC) could have big economic benefits, affecting everything from trade to foreign investment to the value of the dollar.

"The time has come to reinvent the Atlantic partnership -- to put

century," the Carnegie Endowment said in a detailed new study. It said the two sides, once bound by the Soviet threat. should now start cooperating on the "looming issues of industrial and competitiveness policy, fore-

and monetary relations, and the environment. Written by "younger Euro-peans and Americans," the study

in Richmond, Virginia.

Philip Morris said the price

actions should have no effect on

its parent company's previous

projection that domestic tobacco

profits will be off as much as 40

per cent or \$2 billion for all of

The cigarette pricing

announcement came as Philip

Morris Companies Inc.

announced that its earnings for

the second quarter fell 22.2 per

cent to \$1.05 billion, or \$1.20 a

share, from \$1.35 billion or \$1.48

roughly in line with analyst's pro-

jections. Revenue rose 4.2 per

cent to \$15.78 billion from \$15.16

The earnings per share were

a share, a year ago.

focused on far tighter economic cooperation now the cold war has given way to new security threats, be it ethnic strife, arms proliferation or environmental changes. "Enhanced U.S. ties with the Community can strengthen the capibilities of both partners, Carnegie Chairman Robert Zoellick said in the report. "Indeed firm political and economic ties are the foundation for sustaining an important alliance that is adjusting to vastly changed cir-

Mr. Zoellick said the U.S. side should support closer European integration and not feel threatened by a strong partner across the Atlantic. Nor should Japan see a trans-

Atlantic alliance as any sign of the United States and Europe ganging up on Tokyo, he said. The institute said new ground rules would allow the two sides to compete as well as cooperate, stressing closer ties on specific sectors of the economy to augment more traditional coordination on broad macro-economics.

It also recommended a new

treaty on bilateral investment including stronger antitrust policies, more predictable tax treatment and clearer guidelines on As for European monetary unfederalism.

ion, the report said monetary integration — when it finally comes — would make the EC less: susceptible to U.S. influence. "The impact of a single Euro-

pean currency on the international role of the American dollar and American fiscal policy options - could be significant," it Washington would have to take

greater account of EC policies and investors would be less inclined to hold dollars, potentially constraining the U.S. fiscal strategy, it added. "Finally, in the short term, the

efforts of the European nations to rates to achieve monetary integration could be deflationary,' the report said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JULY 24, 1993 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: With the Moon in Libra square Mer-cury, Neptune and Uranus you could easily be tempted to strike out on some wholly new and un-tried method of living which another has been extolling.

ARIES: (March, 21 to April (9) Avoid the public limelight today and put your efforts on achieving good results where your own spe-cial creative gifts are concerned, make beadway.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You would be wise to avoid going off to some new site or activity and instead you need to take a good look about your home and improve

conditions there. GEMINE: (May 21 to June 21) Stay away from any sort of dispute with anyone of a business or practical nature and get into whatever state-

ments, reports, shopping that needs to be done. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think over what your worldly aims are and go after them by yourself because if a partner is

concerned there can be unpleasant LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Steer clear of a fellow associate who is on the rampage and wants a good argument to clear a condition but this is not the time and make new

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is not the day to go after those pleasures that animate you

most strongly but instead get into practical matters with a business person of experience, LIBRA: (September 23 to October

22) Think about the various outside outlets that attract you and concentrate upon them instead of sticking so close to your own home and you make headway.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A demanding person who claims to be a friend can put you in an untenable spot now if you are with that person so stick to usual les to be carried out.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Expecting where money and property interests are concerned you now have the inspiration and idealism to gain. almost any new project you have in

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are all stirred up for a pitched argument with one of your family but stop and don't do so but instead be with a devoted

outside associate for pleasures. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Take some time out now to show you are the one who does not allow yourself to be hampered by limitations but be productive in getting outside matters well

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You find an acquaintance has ideas which are not at all good for you so tactfully avoid this person and concentrate upon fixing up your property.

Minister Tansu Ciller met a disa poor area of Turkey. Speaking to about 3,500 people in this virtual capital of Turkey's

our power.'

DIYARBAKIR (AFP) — Prime trustful, placard-bearing crowd when she vaunted a \$220 million economic aid plan here Friday in

neglected, rebellion-racked southeast, Ms. Ciller made clear that her new government's policy was to "develop the region, but fight against the terrorists with all

Members of the crowd carried placards asking that southeasterners "be treated like the others in the west (of Turkey)."

exports.

He was apparently referring to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which boosted production by nearly three million b/d and 800,000 b/d respectively and are still producing the same level.

around five million b/d.

The war of words between Saudi Arabia and Iran, OPEC's second largest producer, erupted as Mr. Ping prepared to fly to Tehran after talks with Sheikh Nazer. He is also due to travel Saturday to Abu Dhabi, the last leg of a Gulf tour he began early Thursday to prepare the ground

for OPEC's urgent talks UAE oil sources confirmed reports that the talks, originally set for July 28, would be postponed for at least one week. They said they expected Mr. Ping to set a final date at the end of his Gulf

> The talks were called after prices plummetted Monday to their lowest level in nearly three years on growing speculation that the United Nations would allow Iraq to resume limited oil exports

for humanitarian reasons. Although they rallied later, the area still more than \$4 below OPEC's benchmark of \$21 and nearly 15 per cent lower than

Ciller's plans for southeast aid run into hostile crowd

WASHINGTON (R) - U.S. it on a new footing for the next European ties are at a watershed and new types of economic coop-The French central bank drove eration are vital now the cold war is over, an influential policy group said Friday. The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace said the "new The increase makes it more ign investment, macro-economic

expensive for traders to borrow francs in order to sell them in the hope of repurchasing them more cheaply after a devaluation.

But French Prime Minister

Philip Morris extends Marlboro price cuts to other premium brands helped the brand end eight con- said John Maxwell, tobacco analyst for Wheat First Securities

Morris has said the lower prices set to end next month on its best-selling Marlboro cigarettes would continue indefinitely and will be extended to other premium brands like Parliament and Virginia Slims.

The move by the nation's biggest tobacco maker was expected to put pressure on other leading tobacco makers to make comparable cuts, a response to the growing consumer preference for lower-priced goods. Philip Morris had announced a

temporary price promotion programme in April that effectively/ cut Marlboro prices by about 40 cents a pack in a bid to stem erosion in its share to discount

It said that the programme had

secutive monthly declines in Marlboro's market share. William Campbell, president

and chief executive of Philip Morris USA, said Marlboro added about 1.1 percentage points in April and May to its leading share of the U.S. cigarette market and continued to gain share.
As a result, he said Philip

Morris would convert the promotional programme set to expire Aug. 8 into an outright 40 cent per pack cut in the wholesale price of Marlboros.

That should cut the average price to consumers for a pack of Marlboros to about \$1.75 from about \$2.25 before the promotion

"It seems to me all the other companies will have to follow,"

billion a year earlier. venge attack on families of local militia aiding the army campaign. Last week, about 50 people

died in similar attacks According to figures compiled by AFP, an estimated 7,000 rebels, police, troops and civilians have died since the PKK began the separatist rebellion in 1984.

In Ankara, an Iranian government delegation arrived for talks on security along the countries' common border. Turkey says the Kurdish rebels use Iran as a staging ground for attacks, and has accused Iran of providing the guerrillas with military and logistical support. Tehran denies the

the speakers go back to Ankara,' entirely convincing in a region dominated by Kurds, who accuse one Diyabakir resident told AFP of Ms. Ciller's speech. Ankara of treating them as Ms. Ciller, who took the unpre-cedented step of holding a second-class citizens and who suffer the repercussions of a long-running war between the Turkish army and the separatist Kurdish cabinet meeting in the mountain-side town of Hakkari Thursday, Labour Party (PKK). has made a two-day tour of the This meeting is designed to southeast to launch a \$220 million package that promises to create

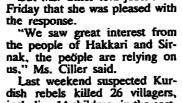
pull the wool over our eyes," said a man who listened to Ms. Ciller

But her programme was not

and Sirnak, the poorest areas of "The statements do not respond amounted to economic promto our concerns about human But Ms. Ciller told journalists nights.

Several mayors in Hakkari province handed Ms. Ciller letters protesting against what they called the security forces' violations of human rights. One such letter criticised "the more than \$100 million worth of investment in weapons, military material and

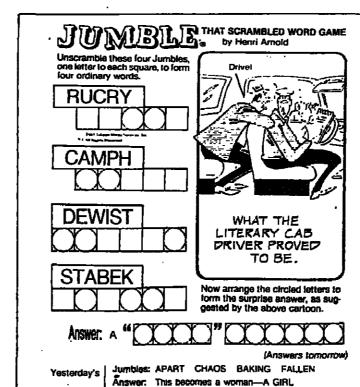
soldiers in the region since 1987." The pro-Kurd, Turkishlanguage newspaper Ozgur Gun- others wounded in what local

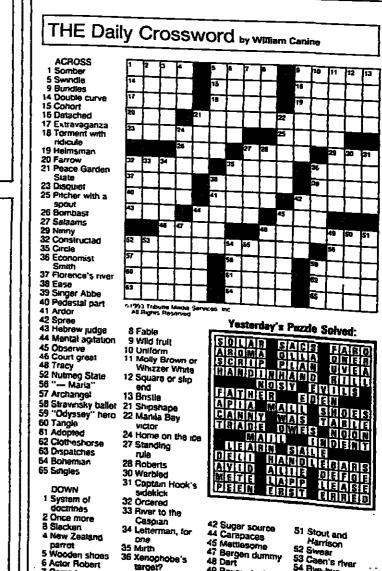


including 14 children, in the eastern Van province and left 20 dem said Ms. Ciller's plans "only authorities believed was a re-

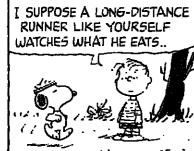


except when it's directed at me!"





Peanuts





speaking provinces of Hakkari in Sirnak city's main square.



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOUSING BANK CENTER ADMAN - SHKEISAN?

ORGANISED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (17/87/1993 - 21/07/1991)

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NAME HANK	1,815,430			
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BANK OF JORDAN			44.600	
MIDDLE EAST THVESTHERT BARE.			5.150	
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPHENT BANK	315,955 686,076		3.070	
THE MOUSING BANKE			5.520	
JORDAN AUMAIT BANK	767,853	3.576	3.590	3.440
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	. 167,762	4.500	4.450	4.310
JORDAN ISLANIC BANK	315,742	5.400	3.560	5.750
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT BUSINESS BANK	38,161	3.000	5.100	4.750
JORDAN LEVESTHENT L FINANCE BANK	491,209			
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AAAB BAKELNG CORPORATION/JORGAN	27,502	4.700	4.700	4-660
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BASE.			3.150	
JORDAN INSURANCE	22, 174		4.350	4.450
HIDDLE FAST INSURANCE ARADIAN SEAS INSURANCE			3.750	
GENTRAL ARABIA INSCRINCE			1.010	
JENUSALEM INSURANCE	100,639		3.350 4.260	
JORDAN FRENCH THEBRANCE	147.644			
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE		2.046	3.990	2.800
YARMOON THSURANCE & REINSURANCE HOLF LAND INSURANCE	17,175		3.700	3.700
ARAS LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	4,577			
JORDAN GULF INSURANCE	10,135		3.280	
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE			2.750	
AL-NISH AL-ARABI IFSURANCE	964	6.500	4.786	4.700
JORDANIAN STECHTC DOWN	484,577	2-650	2.450	2.650
JORDAN BOTZI & TOURISM IRBID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY			7.930	
VEHICLES CHEERS PEDERATION		1.380 7.100	1.489	
ARAB INTERNATIONAL NOTELS	100,174		5.520	
JORGAN TOURISM & SPA COMPLEX			0.410	0.400
MATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	342,934	4,510	4.400	4.570
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	397,874			
JORDAN GULP BEAL ESTATE INVESTMENT PETRA ESTRORISES & EQUIPMENTS LEASING			4.819	
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CONTEN	15.778 28,005		1.160 7.100	
RACHIMARY EQUIP. RESTING & MAINTENANCE	19,478		1.198	
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRAY:	;?;,033			
JORDAN PRESS & PUBLISHING /AD-DUSTOUR	91,019	10.000	19.100	9.950
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE MOTELS	247,735			
ARAS INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	100,760	3.380	2.756	2.826
ATTARGET COMET, MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	\$15,450 \$5,336		2-250	
THE JORDAN CENENT PACTORIES	1,895,474			
PERIN STANGEONS NAGGOL	24,084	4.150	4.200	4.200
JORGAN PETROLEUM REPLKARY	103,160			
Jordan Tanving Woolen industries	10,470	8.050		
THE IMPOSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	28,420 350,497	3.108 8.430		
THE JORDAN WORSTED HILLS	51.089		11.500	
ARAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	2,451,032			
JORDAM CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	254,487	7.750	7.850	7.850
JORDAN DAIRY			2.400	
JORDAN PRINTING & PACKING THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING			6.000	
JORGAN PAPER L CARBOGARD CACTORIES	323,364 164,882			
THE FUBLIC MINING			3.100	
ARAB CHEMICAL DETERGENTS INDUSTRIES			21.000	
SPINSING & WEAVING	50,975	3.140		1,686
RAPIA INDUSTRIES	25,227			
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES DAR AL DAVA DEVELOPMENT 4 INVESTMENT	18,127	0.600	0.00	
	784,453 192,957			
ARAD ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY			10.850	
ARAB INVESTMENT & INCOMESTICAL TRADE ARAB MUNICIPAL INDUSTRI GENERAL INVESTMENT AND REPORTS	11,195		6.150	4.100
NOW PAPER CONTESTING & INCOME.	84,407			
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	13,665			
Mational Steel Indostry National Industries			5.750 0.830	
INTERNEDIATE PETPO-CHENICAL INDUSTRIES	174,677			
TORDAR CREMICAT INDUCATIONS INDUSTRIES	97,340		6.600	
- JORGAN ROCK-OOL INDUSTRIES	62, B95		2.700	
UNIVERSAL CREMICAL IMDUSTRIES			8.950	
ALADDIN INDUSTRIES			5.000	
JORDAN INDOSTRIES & MATCH/JINCO			1.250	
JORDAN PRECAST CONCALTE INDUSTRY	55,141	9.530		0.530
JORGAN WOOD INDUSTRIES / JWICO	3,685 791,118		6.700	
NATIONAL CRELE & VINE NAMED ACTURING JORDAN SULPRO-CREMICALS	49,714			4.509
ARAB CERTER FOR PRANH. & CHEMICALS	379,848			
JORDAN KINGLIT CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	130,991			1.900
KANTHER INVESTMENT	122,243			

PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (17/07/1993 - 21/07/1993)

22,657,911

PRICE 1.370 1.349 0.930 0.890 1.850 1.850 1.350 1.140 1.800 2.120 1.980 2.290 2,240 2.320 CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE JORDAN TRADE FACILITIES ANIAH ETPATRIATES INVESTMENT KOLDING MIDDLE PAST FOR DEVL. & TRADE CO. JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO. NATIONAL CHLORINE INDUSTRIES CO.LID 2.130 JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY

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Jordan Times in co-operation with Markets Cairo Amman Bank

tral Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin



	Date: 22 7.1943		
Currency	Kid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.6750	0.6970	
Sterling Pound	1.0427	1.0539	
Deutsche Mark	0.4075	0.4098	
Swiss Franc	0.4617	0.4640	
French Franc	0.1193	0.1199	
Japanese Yen	0.6419	0.6451	
Putch Guilder	0.3523	0.3641	
Swedish Krona	0.0868	0.0872	
Italian Lica	0.0434	0.0436	
Relgian Franc	0.01973	0.01983	

Other Currencies	Date: 22/7.1993		
Currency	Rid	Offer	
Bahraini Dinar	1.8180	1.8380	
Lehanese Lira	0.03915	0.04100	
Saudi Riya)	0.1848	0.1855	
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.5200	2.2900	
Qatari Riyal	0.1850	0.1920	
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2300	
Omani Riyal	1.7650	1.8200	
CAE Dirham	0.1580	0.1920	
Greek Drachma	0.2970	0.3270	
Cypriot Pound	1.3552	1.3852	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs

One sterling

1.2800/10 1.7165/75 1.9320/30 1.5133/40 35.54/56 5.8690/40 1613.0/5.0 107.05/15 8.0925/25 7.3375/75

Canadian dollar Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Danish crowns

Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns

6.6700/00 \$1.5015/25 \$392.35/392.75 One ounce of gold

Jordanian industrial goods have 63.3% import content Following is the second and last part of an article on industrialisation in Jordan. This part details the key factors that constitute the value added content and states various

By Samir Shafiq Special to the Jordan Times

recommendations to advance the industrial sector.

AMMAN — Jordanian industry is so heavily reliant on imported raw materials that, according to economist and newspaper columnist Fahd Al Fanek, the value added percentage is only 36.7 per cent of the total cost of a product.

Describing the percentage as "generally very low," Dr. Fanck explained in a lecture at an economic symposium organised by the Centre for Strategic Studies and held recently at the University of Jordan, that industrial products at sale prices have an esti-mated ID 1,752 million value. Out of this amount, JD 973 million are costs of raw and intermediate materials used in the production process.

By adding JD 136 million of other expenses unrelated to the production process to the aforementioned costs, the net value added figure works out to be JD 643 million spread over wages (JD 169 million), indirect taxes (JD 123 million), fixedassets' depreciation (JD 106 million) and other amounts related to banks' interest, income tax, consolidating reserves and di-

vidends to shareholders. Wages represented 26.3 per cent of the value added amount or 9.6 per cent of the products' final value. As such. Dr. Fanck said, raising or reducing the wage factor was relatively of low effect on the final cost of an industrial

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Dr. Fanek cautioned that since wages take 26.3 per cent of the value added amount, it should not be misunderstood that the remaining 73.7 per cent of the value added go to the industrial-

He said depreciation accounts for 16.5 per cent of the value added amount and indirect taxes, especially relating to fuel, cigarettes, drinks and other items, account for another 19.1

By deducting these two elements the surplus from opera-tions would be 38.1 per cent from which approximately 3.8 per cent bank interest, 1.7 per cent rent and five per cent income tax would be paid leaving 27.6 per cent for the industrialists.

As such, owners of industries get a share of value added almost equal to the workers who, according to Dr. Fanek, receive a JD 196 monthly salary of which JD 164 is a direct cash payment and the rest in other fringe be-

The study analyses the inputs required by industrialists and notes that 50 per cent of the purchases are directly imported from abroad, 10 per cent are (indirect) imports available in the local market, 25 per cent are inputs purchased from other Jordanian industrial firms and the

rest, 15 per cent, local materials. Dr. Fanek recalled in his study

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Share percentage of mining and convertible industry in gross domestic product at cost

Year	Mining	Convertible industry	Total
1986	4,07	11.08	15.15
1987	4.09	11.04	15.12
1988	3,77	8.88	12.65
1989	4.66	12.30	16.96
1990	4.07	13,50	17.57
1991	3.19	12.89	16.08
1992	3.06	13.05	16.11

that the dinar devaluation in 1988/89 was not welcomed by Jordanian industrialists -because expenditure on raw materials, machinery and spares by the industrial sector has exceeded the earnings from exports. However he pointed out that the situation would gradually change as higher foreign exchange costs would prompt higher utilisation of local inputs and would nudge industrialists to give priority to ex-

According to the study, there were 15,348 industrial units in Jordan at the end of 1991. The units employed 89,297 workers of whom 5.6 per cent were female and 19.3 per cent were unsalaried (indicating that many were family members or trainees).

Employment in the mining branch of the industrial sector represents only two per cent of the workforce although mining accounts for 40 per cent of national exports.

Convertible industries employed eight per cent of the work-force at the end of 1991 although this industrial field serves mostly the local market.

The study examined the share of both industrial branches in the gross domestic product (GDP) pointing out that mining owns 36.4 per cent of the indus-

accounted for 3.06 per cent of Jordan's GDP at the end of the last year whereas convertible industries accounted for 13.05 per

Dr. Fanek said that although the total was 16.11 per cent, the industrial percentage in the GDP was much higher at 37 per cent upon the inclusion of water, electricity, construction and farming services, as a results accounts for the remainder 63 per cent of

Other industrial highlights of the study were the following: 1) Industries paid a total of JD 136 million in rent, auditing and legal consultation fees, electricity, water, telephone and advertisement costs.

Industries specifically paid JD 2.6 million for water, JD 25.4 million for electricity and JD 93 million for fuel.

2) Fixed assets at book value after depreciation were estimated to have a JD 1,007 million at the end of 1991. Annual depreciation amounted to JD 106 million. 3) Jordanian industries had a

total registered capital of JD 579

million whereas the paid-up capital was JD 591 million. The Jordanian government

4) Total taxes and indirect fees collected from the industrial sec- lowing policies: tor amounted to JD 123 million of

tion and consumption taxes. 5) Phosphate and potash min- an information base about the ing has limited scope and, as the investment climate and invest-Kingdom is near mining close to ment opportunities available. these limits, Jordan must focus on the Dead Sea and on expanding extraction of marble and granite among other construction mate-

Dr.- Fanek recommended that Jordanian industries strive to raise the value added factor in their production by embarking on true industrial processes and not be satisfied by only canning or packaging imported products. He further suggested linking

wages to productivity on sound and agreed basis and not merely rely on factors of seniority and annual raises. Other recommendations prop-

osed by Dr. Fanek were: A) Increased reliance on local elements, they be raw materials, expertise or labour.

B) Controlling costs and minimising losses and waste of re-

C) Providing extra attention to the export drive to transform the industrial sector from being a net importer to a net exporter status.

D) Utilising the utmost production capabilities on the largest scale to enable the reduction of intermediate costs.

E) Encouraging the establishment of agricultural industries clude additional incentives. even if that entails levying customs fees on imported agriculturai products to protect local pro-

tries, Arab and foreign equity is 9.1 per cent with the rest, 54.5 per cent, being private sector quoted by Dr. Fanek in his study: industrial advancement can be

better achieved through the fol-I — Adoption of one central: which 96.4 per cent were produc- unit at the Ministry of Industry and Trade to build and provide

II — Facilitating procedures to other resources, such as those in obtain import and export permits, whereby the procedures serve only the collection of fees and imposing boycott regulations.

III — Limiting all registration and licensing procedure to one window.

IV — Encouraging the formation of public shareholding companies through lessening the tax burden on these companies and. removal of legislations hindering the transformation of private companies to public shareholding

The adoption of an automatic: mechanism to issue, price and float shares by investment banks,. and putting the adequate legislation to prevent manipulation in share prices or hiding information were also mentioned for activat-

ing industrial progress.

V. — Encouraging the financial sector to provide funds for, investments through supporting the capabilities of the Industrial-Development Bank, export fi-. nance guarantee corporation and through the creation of an institution to partially guarantee loans to small projects.

VI — Amending the law for encouraging investment to in-

VII — Providing tax incentives through various deductions. VIII — Organising auditing procedures.

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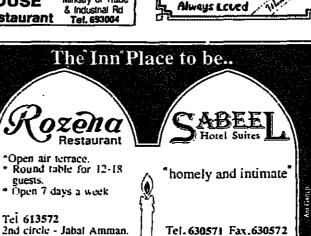
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Fighting continues in Sarajevo

.S/.RAJEVO (AFP) — Artillery duels continued in Sarajevo Friday after massive bombardments Thursday that led to the postponement of peace talks in Gene-

The Bosnian Serbs' commander in chief, General Artko Mladic, was meanwhile leading an assault on the Bosnian army stronghold of Mount Igman, looming over Sarajevo Airport.

Journalists who met him on the mountain Thursday were able to discount rumours sweeping Sarajevo that he had lost both legs in the fighting and that his

deputy had been killed. U.N. Protection Force (UN-PROFOR) commander Francis Briquemont, a Belgian general, was on his way to meet Gen. Mladic Friday in a bid to halt the week-old offensive, UNPRO-FOR spokesman Barry Frewer reported.

In Brussels, Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes, representing the European Community, id he would meet Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic on Aug.

Mr. Claes had failed to meet Mr. Milosevic during a 36-hour visit to the Serbian capital in

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2.4

which he warned that the Yugoslav Federation (comprising Serbia and Montenegro) faced further sanctions if Serb military offensives in Bosnia continued.

A senior NATO diplomat in Brussels said U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali had asked the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to delay its new aerial operation over Bosnia, to defend U.N. forces there, until air controllers could be deployed.

Meanwhile Commander Frewer blamed Thursday's fighting condemned by the U.N. Security Council — on "a concerted Serb attack on Sarajevo.'

He said the Serbs were "put-ting pressure on all areas" of the besieged capital, which has been under daily bombardment for more than 15 months.

U.N. observers counted 3.777 shells fired into Sarajevo by the Bosnian Serb gunners Thursday, Mr. Frewer said. Most were on the western outskirts, which the Serbs would need to neutralise if they descended Igman to invade the city centre.

Mr. Frewer gave a provisional toll for Thursday's fighting of seven people in Sarajevo killed and 49 wounded.

On Friday, the firing continued through the morning, but at a much level lower than Thursday. where the shell-count was one of the highest since the Serbs laid siege to the valley city in April. last year.

The shelling increased early afternoon to become steady at the western end of the city. A direct hit Thursday knocked out an electricity sub-station in the downtown neighbourhood of Velesici, one of only three still

operating. President Alija Izetbegovic refused Thursday to attend the talks in Geneva on dividing up this former Yugoslav republic among Serbs, Croats and Mus-

They were to have resumed Friday, but Mr. Izetbegovic said the Muslim-dominated presidency would not attend until Serb attacks on Sarajevo and around the northeastern Serb-held town of Brcko subsided. International mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg subsequently delayed the talks until Sunday. Fighting was continuing around

Brcko Friday, Radio Sarajevo

reported, while Maj. Frewer said

strategic Serb corridor linking Serb-held areas of northern Bosnia with Serbia. Another of Mr. Izetbegovic's conditions - relief for the eastern Muslim enclave of Gorazde --- was met Thursday when Serb

women finally allowed a 10-truck

the Bosnian army commander in

the area had reported that the

Serbs were using Soviet Frog-7

ground-to-ground missiles - a

The Breko area forms part of a

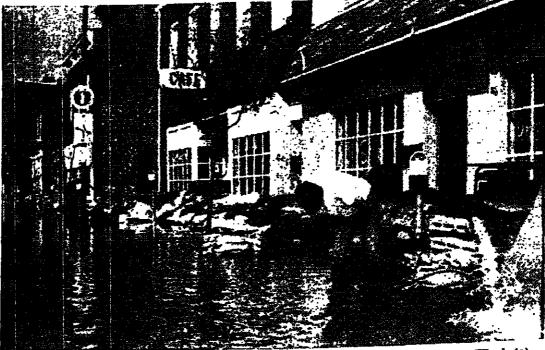
first in the war.

convoy through. U.N. relief offi-cials had described the blocade as an "orchestrated," campaign. U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman Peter Kessler said the convoy, which took in 84 tonnes of supplies for 60,000 people, was the first to get through since July 10. A relief plane dropped 59 tonnes

of supplies on Gorazde overnight

maj. Frewer reported.

The first convoy to reach Sarajevo since Ju y 13 also rolled in Thursday with 140 tonnes of supplies, follow, g a Bosnian Croats' decision to open the main relief route from the southern Croatian town of Metkovic.



A man checks the water level on a parking metre in front of a store in south St. Louis (AFP photo

More rains threaten drenched midwest as U.S. Congress bickers over aid

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) -Neither the weather nor Washington is offering any solace to the inundated midwest as thunderstorms promise more rain and lawmakers bicker over how to pay for flood relief.

More thunderstorms, some of them strong, were developing throughout the midwest Thursday evening. Flooding rains first started in the midwest more than month and a half ago.

Despite the human misery and repeated visits by federal officials, including President Bill Clinton, Congress could not get its act together on an emergency aid package for the flood's victims.

A dispute in the House of Representatives over how to pay for the \$3 billion assistance held up passage of the bill. A vote was not scheduled.

Flooding since the start of June has been blamed for at least 33 deaths, caused \$10 billion in damage and left 16,000 square miles (25,744 square kilometres) of farmland under water. More than 32,000 homes have been damaged, the American Red Cross estimated Thursday.

And no relief came from the Mississippi River, which held in a "flat, broad crest" for more than 200 miles (320 kilometres) from Grafton, Ill., to Cape Girardeau Mo., said Tom Dietrich, a National Weather Service hydrologist in St. Louis.

We really are at crest and we are going to be hanging up there

the next three, four, five days," Mr. Dietrich said.

But at least Des Moines had water, tap water that is, for the first time in 12 days.

After they refilled the city's 810 miles (1300 kilometres) of mains and restored fire protection, officials announced at midmorning that people in one quadrant of the city could open faucets and resume flushing toilets and taking showers. By evening water service had been restored to the entire city.

River engineers are worried that hundreds of miles of saturated levees could crumble as the high water persists.

The river was at 46.9 feet. (14.25 metres) Thursday at St. Louis, down slightly from the record 47.05 feet (14.33 metres) Tuesday night, Mr. Dietrich said. He said the level will continue to fluctuate because of factors including upstream rain, levee breaks and levee repairs. Flood stage is 30 feet (9.14 metres).

Downtown St. Louis is protected by a 52-foot-high (15.85-metre-high) floodwall, but a neighbourhood at the city's southern tip has been badly flooded as sandbagged levees

were swept away.
One of the worst levee breaks along the Mississippi was one at West Quincy, Mo., last Friday that closed the last open bridge over the river for a 200-mile (320-kilometre) stretch. Dan Campbell, sheriff of Marion County, Mo., said Thursday he

will investigate whether someone deliberately broke that levee. He said water district officials were suspicious because the levee seemed to be in good condition just before the break.

In Illinois, the Mississippi River swept over an island that it created in a flood more than a century ago. After a levee blew out on the 15,000-acre (6,000hectare) Kaskaskia Island, someone rang the town's 252-year-old "liberty bell of the west" to warn anyone who hadn't already fled. Heavy rains also cansed flooding in parts of Nebraska, Iowa.

Kansas, Missouri and North Dakota Another levee broke Thursday on the Missouri River, this one

protecting farmland in Saline County, Mo. Meanwhile, nearly one in five U.S. residents believes the dis-

astrous Mississippi River flooding is God's revenge against sinners a new poll said Thursday. The Cable News Network/ USA Today/Gailup poll asked 1,011 respondents whether "the

on the people of the United States for their sinful ways." Some 18 per cent agreed, 78 per cent disagreed and four per

recent floods in the midwest are

an indication of God's judgment

cent had no opinion. On another question, 63 per cent said the U.S. government responded to the flooding as quickly as it could, while 29 per cent disagreed. The rest had no

ger New Party, told a news con-

under any condition.

Mr. Takemura and JNP chief

Lame duck LDP Prime Minis-

ter Kiichi Miyazawa resigned as

party president Thursday to take

responsibility for the election de-

feat. He will stay as caretaker

premier until Aug. 2 when parlia-

ment meets to choose his succes-

At an emergency LDP conven-

tion Thursday, hardliners at first

moved to settle the succession

issue in the old style — through

ference.

French student takes expensive Scottish taxi

EDINBURGH (R) - A French student was taken for an expensive ride when he arrived at Edinburgh Airport, Scottish media reported. Hotel Catering Manager Hugues Flaugnatti flew from Paris to Edinburgh for an English language course. At the airport the driver of an unmarked car asked him if he wanted a taxi. Mr. Flaugnatti was taken eight miles (13 km) to his address in central Edinburgh, where the driver said the fare was £148 (\$224) — 10 times the usual factorial He thought that was expensive but, unused to the currency, paid

Photo forces British prison to fit new locks

LONDON (R) - A British prison spent up to £85,000 (\$128,600) on new locks after inmates saw a closeup photograph of the governor unlocking a cell and copied the keys, a newspaper said. To-day newspaper said criminals at Blakenhurst Prison in central England pounced on the picture and got to work. "The governor might as well have slipped replicas under the cell doors. The lad couldn't believe their luck," a prison source was quoted as saying. The photograph of Governor David Brooke brandishing the keys, taken during an open day for visitors, was printed by a local paper which was circulated in the prison. "In this case it appears necessary for some, if not all, of the cells to be fitted with new locks," a government spokesman told the newspaper.

Landowners warn of poor grouse shooting season

EDINBURGH (R) — Landowners in the Scottish highlar warned that the 1993 ground shooting season would be poor, with serious economic consequences for rural communities. Richard Cook, a senior official of the Game Conservancy, said the season starting on Aug. 12 would have a below average number of birds for the fifth year in a row. Overseas visitors make up 80 per cent of grouse shooting parties and bring in about £23 million (\$34.79 million) a year for Britain. Mr. Cook said the number of birds had been declining for 50 years and many Scottish landowners had converted their moors to other uses, such as forestry. Disney Barlow, chairman of the 4,000-strong Scottish Landowners Federation, said Gamekeepers risked losing their jobs -- a blow to the environment and natural heritage.

British couple try to 'unadopt' problem child

LONDON (R) — A British ce. ple is trying to revoke their adoption of a boy from a children's home who they say has grown into an uncontrollable and violent youth because of early sexual abuse, the Independent reported. The parents are applying to the courts to overturn a 1987 adoption order on the grounds that they were unaware of the boy's troubled history when they agreed to take him. "By the time he left us we had given our all. We were physically, emotionally and financially broken," the father was quoted as saying. The boy, now 13, had to be put in local authority care and now lives in a secure institution.

backroom horsetrading.

NEW YORK (R) — In a bizarre case of mistaken identity, police arrested and jailed the wrong identical twin for assaulting and sodomising his stepmother, who could not tell the two lo-year-old boys apart. The Manhattan district attorney revealed the incident but provided few details about the attack in New York City in which the woman's throat was slashed. New York Newsday. a New York daily paper, quoted law enforcement sources as saying investigators realised the mistake when they found small knife marks on the other brother's hands.

Stop wine-ing

BRUSSELS (R) - The European Community will have more than 15 bottles of surplus wine in store for every man, woman and child in the bloc by the end of the century and Farm Commissioner Rene Steichen says it's time to get rid of it. The Community accounts for 60 per cent of world wine production but its citizens are drinking less wine, imports are rising and exports stagnating. Schemes to cut wine output by digging up vincyards are being swamped by rising yield resulting from new production methods. The commission wants to see farmers paid more to dig up vineyards. "The EC produces too much wine," Mr. Steichen said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Armenians capture key Azeri town

MOSCOW (R) - Armenian forces captured the Azeri town of Agdam Friday and were strongly attacking a second key centre, Fizuli, the Azeri Defence Ministry said. "Agdam has been captured, Fizuli is under threat," the ministry said in a terse one-line message faxed to news agencies. An Azeri journalist in the capital Baku said a ministry spokesman had confirmed the report by telephone. Armenian forces from the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, whose eastern border is just a few kilometres from Agdam, have been closing in on the town in several weeks of fighting. The Armenian News Agency, Snark, said Karabakh forces had entered Agdam Friday morning after besieging the town from three sides. It said the town was almost completely under their control by midday (0800 GMT).

Grachev gets nuclear briefcase

MOSCOW (AP) - President Boris Yeltsin now shares missilelaunching control over the former Soviet nuclear arsenal with Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, a spokesman for the Russian Defence Ministry said. Mr. Grachev, 45, has taken over the "nuclear button" — a set of secret electronic codes needed to launch nuclear warheads - from Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, the former military commander of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Mr. Yeltsin named Marshal Shaposhnikov last month to head Russia's Security Council, a small, secretive body that oversees the country's defence policy. His appointment has yet to be approved by the Supreme Soviet legislature. In an interview with the newspaper Izvestia last month, Marshall Shaposhnikov said Mr. Yeltsin as commander-in-chief and he would keep the nuclear codes under their control until the Commonwealth leaders decided otherwise.

Ariane rocket launches satellites

KOUROU, French Guiana (R) — Western Europe's 58th Ariane rocket placed into orbit satellites for Spain and India after a from French Guiana. The rocket blasted on at 7:58 p.m. (2258 GMT) from the European Space Agency (ESA) launch centre in Kourou on South America's northeast coast. Twentyone minutes after launch, the Ariane 44L rocket released into space Hispasat 1B, a 2.2-tonne communications satellite for the Madrid-based Hispasat Consortium. Three minutes later, Insat 2B, a 1.9-tonne, multipurpose satemic for India's Department of Space, was released.

Italian industrialist commits suicide

MILAN (R) - Italian industrialist Raul Gardini killed himself in his Milan flat Friday, three days after the suicide in jail of another top businesman touched by Italy's massive corruption scandal, Italian news agencies said. Police confirmed that Mr. Gardini, 60, had died of a gunshot wound but said they could not immediately confirm the death was a suicide. The ANSA and AGI news agencies said Mr. Gardini had shot himself in his Milan flat and later died in hospital. Milan local radio said Mr. Gardini shot himself at 0900 (0700 GMT). Mr. Gardini was a chairman of the crisis-ridden Ferruzzi group, whose interests ranged from foods to chemicals and which has come under increasing scrutiny by magistrates probing Italy's corruption scandal. The arrest last week and interrogation of former Ferruzzi Chairman Guiseppe Garofano, had been expected to propel Mr. Gardini and other top Ferruzzi figures in the group into the scandal.

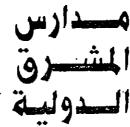
70 N. Korean soldiers to flee to China

SEOUL (R) - About 70 North Korean soldiers have deserted and fled to China last month to form a squad to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung, South Korean media reports said Friday. The domestic Yonhap News Agency quoted "a source in China" as saying the soldiers, unable to endure hunger and harsh training conditions, slipped out of their camp near Wonsan, 150 kilometres east of Pyongyang, and crossed into China's Jilin province where they dispersed. South Korea's MBC Television carried a similar report Thursday from its Peking correspondent.

Toll in South Asian floods tops 1,200

NEW DELHI (R) — Raging monsoon floods have killed more than 1,200 people and left millions homeless across Nepal, Bangladesh and northern India, officials and news reports said Friday. Officials in the Nepali capital of Kathmandu said the per of confirmed deaths in the centre and east of the Himalayan kingdom this week had hit 343. Another 445 people were missing and feared dead in what residents of the Kathmandu Valley said were the worst floods for nearly 40 years. In Bangladesh, officials and newspapers said the deatl, toll had reached 130. In India, reports from police, officials and domestic news agencies brought the number killed in the north in the last week to around 740.





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Critical thinking is the basis for knowledge ar reativity; all that exists can be the subject of thought, and every thought can be criticized and improved itical thinking is the ability to face and solve problems. It is the ability to visualize other options and alternate solutions as well as to experiment with new methods

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> (MA. Education) (K.G. Specialist)

Japan LDP sees power slipping away TOKYO (R) — Japan's Liberal LDP in its present form can agree laws and ban private firms makto this platform," Masayoshi ing political donations. Takemura, leader of the Harbin-

Democratic Party (LDP), which lost its parliamentary majority in elections this week, saw its 38year-long hold on power slipping away Friday when two key parties moved towards the opposition An uncommitted bloc whose

votes could swing the parliamentary ballot for a new prime minister announced a platform unlikely to be acceptable to the LDP. Leaders of the Japan New Party (JNP) and the Harbinger New Party said they would insist that any government they backed should reconvene parliament in September and push through

curbs on political corruption, Their statement said parliament should act by December to introduce an electoral system combining single-seat districts with a form of proportional representation, adopt stiff anti-graft

ESTELI, Nicaragua (AP) — The

Nicaraguan army recaptured this

northern city after a day and a

These are the three pillars of a

platform long sought by the opposition but always blocked by the LDP which has been in power since 1955 and is struggling to form a government by securing a vorking parliamentary majority.

Tsutomu Hata, an LDP defector who now leads the 55-strong Japan Renewal Party and is seen as a possible coalition prime minister, welcomed the state-

"This is very much like our own basic policy," Mr. Hata said on television. "It looks like we can form a viable government.' Last Sunday, the LDP finally

lost its majority in a general election and was plunged into crisis. But with 223 seats in the 511-seat lower house it remains Japan's largest party.
"It is highly unlikely that the

Nicaraguan recaptures Esteli dent Violeta Chamorro, She promised land, tools and other support to former fighters of both

half of fierce fighting with anti-government rebels that left at least 45 people dead. The battle was one of the worst outbreaks of fighting in Nicar-agua since the civil war ended in

The group of about 150 rebels was broken up and defeated in 24 hours," Army Spokesman Lt. Col. Ricardo Wheelock told a state-owned radio station.

He reported 41 rebels, two soldiers and two civilians killed, and 98 people wounded. A nurse in the city's only hospital reported that up to 100 civilians had been treated at the crowded facility, which was overrun by rebels carrying on their battle from Booming artillery and tank fire

reverberated across this city of 137.000 Thursday as troops battled rebels in house to house combat. Many residents hid inside shuttered homes. The fighting was a flareup of tensions and passions that have

kept Nicaragua at war with itself

to varying degrees for 14 years. Former fighters with the two sides in the civil war - the U.S.-backed contras and the leftist Sandinistas - have teamed up in a rebel movement to protest what they say are broken promises by the government of Presi-

sides, but much of it was never delivered. There were varied reports,

however, on the identities of the rebels in the Esteli battle. State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said in Washington that the rebels were only made up of former Sandinista soldiers, not ex-contras.

But Nicaraguan officials said that both contras and former Sandinistas were involved in the fighting in Esteli. A Rebel who identified himself as "Pedron" also told a local radio station the attack was carried out by both ex-contras and former soldiers.

repressive organ," he said. "People are dying of hunger and the government is doing nothing." While the rearmed former rebels have been a nuisance to the Chamorro government with recent banditry, they do not yet

appear to pose a serious threat to

"The police have become a

Still, Gen. Humberto Ortega, the armed forces chief, himself a former Sandinista rebel leader, vowed earlier Thursday that the rebels would be captured and dealt with harshly.

"The army will capture these armed men in short order and they will be dealt with harshly,

he said to reporters in Managua. the capital 60 miles to the south. Col. Wheelock said govern-ment troops had captured 59 of the rebels.

At least 150 rebels were involved in the fighting, which started Wednesday when attackers plundered three banks, a supermarket and attacked police stations. The rebels said they were led

by a former Sandinista army ma-

jor, Victor Manuel Gallegos Hernandez. Col. Wheelock said he and his aides were believed to have fled south with \$4 million robbed from banks. It was not clear Thursday whether the attack on Esteli the scene of occasional rebel

attacks - was an isolated action or part of a larger campaign. Rebels took over the city's only hospital, firing from the facility's windows and doors, as medics ducked and dozens of wounded civilians spilled from crowded

rooms and into corridors. The rebels Thursday released the Nicaraguan ambassador to Honduras after capturing him Wednesday as they drove along the Panamerican Highway near Esteli, according to the government. Honduran officials said Noel Rivas Gasteazoro, 72, was released unharmed. The fates of his wife and driver, also captured, were not specified.

Morihiro Hosokawa said they had not formally decided to commit themselves: to either the LDP or the five-party opposition bloc. However, they said they might join a coalition, going back on a pledge to stay out of government

Wrong twin jailed 🤼 for slashing stepmother's throat

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P.G.H. (R)

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French League rules out demoting Marseille

Football League said Friday it would impose its own sanctions in response to the Olympique Marseille match-rigging scandal within a fortnight but ruled out demoting the champions to division two.

Noel Le Graet, the league president, said he was sure Marseille would "begin and end the 1993-94 season," in division one. But he was much more guarded about whether Marseille would be allowed to defend their European Champions Cup crown.

The League's move came despite indications that the legal proceedings surrounding the alleged attempt by Marseille General Manager Jean-Pierre Bernes to bribe opponents last season would drag on for months.

Bernes, who is accused of trying to bribe three Valenciennes players to take it easy during a match on May 20, was released conditionally from custody Thursday. He denies any involvement in

the affair but is accused by Marseille midfielder Jean-Jacques Eydelie as well as the three Valenciennes players.

Eydelie claims he acted as a go-between between Bernes and the Valenciennes players. Two of them, Jorge Burruchaga and Christophe Robert, have been charged with corruption, as well as Robert's wife Marie-Christine. Police have recovered 240,000 francs (\$44,000) of a sum given to

State prosecutor Eric de Montfolfier, who objected to Bernes being released, predicted there would be no important developments in the case before the

"There will be a slowing down, but only compared with a month of galloping," he said.

The league was decided however that the legal authorities had come up with enough evidence for them to make decisions about the professional futures of the

BORDEAUX, France (AFP)

Britain's Chris Boardman

smashed the world cycling hour

tecord here Friday - then

announced his next target could

Boardman became the first

man to go through the 5-km

barrier, beating the record set

only last week by Scotland's

The Barcelona Olympic pursuit

gold medallist completed

52.27062 km in the 60 minutes to

am really happy, it is indescrib-

WITH OMAR SHARII & TANNAH HIRSCH

Q.1—East-West vulnerable, as

South you hold: •Q96 VA74 \(KQJ10963 \) \(Void \)

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West 1 4. 2 4 ?
What action do you take?

A.—There are a number of things you want to do-show your club

void, your spade support and the source of your tricks in diamonds. A

cue-bid now could result in enemy

pre-emptive action, leaving you badly placed. A forcing response of

two diamonds now is the more pru-

dent course-you can get aggressive

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you

4K64 ♥Q976 ♦Q6 +AQ84

A.—You have reasonable support for partner's suit, but a dead mini-mum opening bid. There's one ac-tion that describes this hand

perfectly—pass. We frown upon anything else.

Q.3-As South, vulnerable, you

+Q976 7K64 0Q6 +AQ84

What action do you take?

A.—Almost an identical hand to

the second problem, except that the major suits have been reversed.

suit improves your hand enormously. Even the Law of Total Tricks

strongly dictates that you should

Q.4-Both vulnerable, as South

raise to two spades.

re your four-card lit for partner's

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 Pass 1 Dbl

DЫ

The bidding has proceeded: South West North East

Pass 1 +

What action do you take?

Graema Obree in Norway.

beat Obree's 51.596 km.

be to turn professional.



in the Socialist administration

that lost power earlier this year,

also faces defamation charges af-

The next step in the investiga-

tion, due next week, is a hearing

for former Valenciennes trainer

Boro Primorac in front of the

examining magistrate. Primorac

has accused Tapie of asking him

Meanwhile in an interview with

to carry the can for the affair.

the Marseille daily Le Provencal

after his release, Bernes again

proclaimed his innocence and

said the entire affair was aimed at

quoted as saying. "It's not me

they are after in this affair, they

Boardman said he had been

keen to attempt the hour record

before current Tour De France

leader Miguel Indurain, because

he is convinced the Spaniard

could post a new mark beyond

anyhody else's reach.
"If a racer like Indurain does it

I think he will smash all my

He added: "We expected

Obree to break the record, I was

very surprised he didn't do it the

got up and did it the next day but

I didn't let that worry me too

The 24-year-old did not get the ideal start on his 7kg bike — 2kg lighter than the Olympic version

second on the schedule Obree set

But by the 10km mark he had

found his rhythm and had a two

second advantage which he had stretched to nearly 15 seconds 10

and was initially down a

"But I couldn't believe that he

marker times."

much.

last week.

km later.

required.

"You cannot prove something

discrediting Tapie.

recovered.

Jacques Glassman (right) who revealed bribes tion with the protagonists of the scandal (AFP contacts from the Olympique Marseille arrives at photo) the Valencienne Justice Hall for the first confronta-

players involved. Éydelie, Burruchaga and Robert will be heard from Mon-

day. The football authorities are also hoping to speak to Bernes. The strain of the affair showed

signs of telling on Marseille President Bernard Tapie, who now faces a second lot of charges related to the affair. France 3-Mediterrance, part of

the public France-3 chain, said Friday it would be pressing criminal damage charges after an incident Thursday when Tapie allegedly threw a television camera into the Mediterranean. The crew were trying to film

Bernes on Tapie's yacht, the Phocea, off Hyeres after his release from custody. According to the television chain, Tapie and his parliamentary aide Marc Fratani left the

Phocea aboard a lifeboat. They boarded the journalists vessel and despite the warnings of Fratani, Tapie grabbed the 240,000 (\$41,000) camera and threw it in the water. The equipment sank to the bottom and could not be want to get Bernard Tapie."

"The goal was to reach 53km

but that wasn't possible because

of the humidity, made worse by

the stadium lights, and the air

next, Boardman said he would

compete in the World Cham-

pionships in Norway in August.

adding: "Then perhaps I will turn

professional next year and try and

win some prologues — but I

realise the Tour de France is

much bigger than anything I have

record now but if somebody beats

it, I will try and get it back."

♦5 ♥A7653 ♥QJ932 **♦**72

A.—Your opponents can certainly make game, perhaps even slam, so it's simply a matter of whether you

should interfere with their auction

and, if so, at what level. Our choice

would be to act aggressively, and we feel five hearts makes life most dif-

Q.5-As South, vulnerable, you

487 ♥AJ94 ◊A109543 48

Partner opens the bidding with one no trump and East passes. What do

A.—The problem with a jump to three diamonds is that partner might rebid three no trump with a four-card heart suit—a bid of any

suit in this sequence would be a cueconfirming diamond support

and a maximum. The way to probe

for a suit contract is to start with

two clubs, to check on the possibili-

ty of a 4-4 heart fit, and then pro-

ceed with three diamonds, which would be forcing.

Q.6-Neither vulnerable, as South

you hold:

2A873 VK V10765 4J854

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West

1 V Dbl ?

What action do you take?

A.—Had there been no takeout double, you would, of course, have

responded to partner's opening bid

with one spade. However, the dou-ble has told you that's East's suit,

and you don't want to jockey the opponents out of spades. To up the

ante a little, we suggest you respond one no trump, although we won't quibble mightily with a pass.

South West

The hidding has proceeded:

What action do you take?

North East

(*-weak)

Dbl

ficult for the enemy.

Asked what he planned to do

pressure."

done before.

GOREN BRIDGE

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Bernes said his arrest and de-The Journalists' Trades Union tention were the worst experience later said it would also be bringin his life but he had kept going thanks to the support of his ing an action against Tapie for attempting to restrict the freedom friends and above all Tapie "who has been remarkable." Mr. Tapie, minister for towns

Bernes, whose conditions of release were that he does not leave the country or contact the other suspects and witnesses in ter comparing the methods of the the case, said he hoped to attend examining magistrate in the case to those of the Nazi Gestapo. Marseille's first match of the new season at home to Lens Saturday

> Marseille's players hope to shift the spotlight away from their club's alleged involvement in the bribery scandal when they begin their quest for a record sixth consecutive French League title.

"All we ask is to be able to do our job in a calm atmosphere,' captain Didier Deschamps said ahead of the European champions' first match at home.

"I think the Marseille players that isn't true." Bernes was are strong enough mentally to make the best possible start to our championship," said League President Le Graet. Boardman smashes world cycling hour record

At the 40km stage, with trainer

Peter Keen keeping him perfectly

informed of his progress, he had a

comfortable 33 seconds in hand

and there was little doubt that the

record was doomed - the only

question was if he could force

himself through the 52km barrier.
The efforts of Obree and

Boardman have now extended

the hour record by 1.119 km from

the mark that Francesco Moser

new mark was former five-times

One of the first react to the

The Frenchman said: "I'm sur-

"He achieved that because he

This record can be compared

prised by the distance he beat the

old record. Nearly 700 metres -

is a top-class rider who prepared

to those of Moreckx and Moser.

Today I can only see Indurain being able to take it higher. Be-

fore, the target was 50km, now

set, at altitude, in 1984.

winner of the Tour

himself scientifically.

Bernard Hinault.

that's enormous.

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China scorns U.S. meddling in Peking 2000 Olympic bid

PEKING (R) — China Friday rebuked U.S. lawmakers for trying to derail Peking's bid to host the 2000 Olympics on human rights grounds, calling the effort a purely political undermining of Olympic ideals.

Chinese Olympic Committee President He Zhenliang also argued strongly for awarding the 27th Olympiad to a developing country like China, saying all but two of the 22 modern games have been held in developed countries. "If the Olympics belong only to

the rich countries, then the games have no future," he told a Peking Foreign Correspondents' Club luncheon. On human rights, he repeated

China's standard defence that lives have improved vastly under communism and that no country not even the United States has a perfect record.

But he added that such considerations do not apply to selection of host cities for the Olympic

"The Olympics is a movement to gather the youth of the world without distinctions of colour, race, ideology and religious beliefs," he said. "If you put all the political,

religious, racial and colour problems into that, the Olympic movement will be destroyed." He chastised as "purely political" interference the resolutions put before the U.S. Congress on

July 15, which urge the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to reject Peking when members select the 27th Olympiad host city on Sept. 23.

"I'm totally against this be-cause it is an infringement of Olympic principles. It is unacceptable," he said.

argued that by seeking the 2000 games, China was trying to divert attention from what they called its repressive human rights re-

He denied knowing of anyone being arrested for opposing China's bid, although one man is known to have been detained in April for trying to organise an anti-games campaign.

He argued that popular opposi-tion, though existing, was minuscule, citing a survey of 10,000 Peking residents showing that 98.7 per cent endorse hosting the

He aimed a personal barb at what he called questionable U.S. human rights policy, saying U.S. authorities had four times denied a visa for his young niece to visit her mother and sisters, who are living in the United States.

"No country is perfect," he said. "The United States ... also has human rights problems but is this a reason to deny it the right to stage the (1996) Olympic

Games in Atlanta?" He rejected suggestions that China was using questionable methods to win votes from the 91 International Olympic Committee members who will decide the

Peking bid's fate. He acknowledged that China had paid for visits to Peking by 64 of the 91 International Olympic Committee members but said this

was normal practice.

He also said China had fi-

nanced the building of 34 sports facilities in developing countries, but said this was part of China's foreign policy and that the programme had been in place for many years before Peking made its Olympic bid.

Abdoujaparov takes 2nd win in Tour De France

BORDEAUX, France (Agencies) - Djamolidine Abdoujaparov of Uzbekistan won his second stage victory of the Tour De France with a powerful final sprint in Bordeaux Friday.

Abdoujaparov easily outdistanced his rivals in the last 100 metres of the 200.5-km 18th stage from Orthez but almost blew bis chances by raising his arms in triumph too soon. Seeing his opponents closing

fast, the Uzbek hastily grabbed his handlebars again and pedalled over the line for a win to add to his victory in the third stage at Dinard.

American Frankie Andreu was second and Rolf Sorensen of Denmark third. The three were in a group of

just over 20 riders who broke away in the latter part of the Race leader Miguel Indurain

finished in the main peloton almost five minutes later but retained his leader's yellow jersey with just two stages of the race With only Saturday's time trial

and a gentle run into Paris Sunday to come, Indurain's cushion of 4min 28seconds looks extremely comfortable - particularly since the Spaniard is almost unbeatable in solo rides against the clock.

Few would have bet against Indurain completing his Tour De France hat-trick this year - including his greatest rivals. Only Swiss due Tony Romin-

ger and Alex Zulle, winner and runner-up in the Tour of Spain. have shown the confidence to make a challenge.

But after Indurain came safely

through the final mountain stage Thursday, with a cushion of nearly four and a half minutes intact, there appears little that can be done to stop him taking another

victory bow this weekend. In contrast to the attitude of the Swiss, the highly-rated Ita-

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lians seemed certain of defeat even before the first stage had started. Claudio Chiappucci declared

Indurain was unbeatable, while Gianni Bugno was crestfallen after his failure in the Tour of Italy, won inevitably by the Spaniard. The only hope was that Indu-

rain, now unbeaten in a record five consecutive major tour events in Italy and France, might crack in the mountains after he had looked vulnerable near the end of the Giro this year. Rominger and Zulle also

needed what luck was going. Instead, Indurain looked as strong as ever — and fortune went his way as well. First Rominger, who had

already lost two key teammates, was hit by a time penalty in the team time trial, and then Zulle fell badly, losing two minutes. Indurain saw his chance and blew the race apart during three

key stages. First he annihilated the opposi tion in his favourite discipline, the individual time trial, taking the yellow jersey despite a puno ture at the end of the 59km 9th

stage at Lac De Madine.

Then, when everybody expected him to sit back and wait for a counter-attack — Indurain's last two Tour wins have been based solely on time trial successes backed up by solid defensive riding — he attacked immediately in the mountains. His offensive in the first moun

tainous stage of the race on July 14 — Bastille Day — splintered the entire field. That performance was fol-

lowed by an equally virtuoso ride the next day and the race was effectively over at the halfway mark.

Only Rominger managed to keep up in the Alps, but by then the Swiss rider was so far behind overall that he needed to break the leader, not match him, if he was to win.

Mexico trounce Jamaica 6-1 to reach CONCACAF final MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexico

trounced Jamaica 6-1 in the semifinals of the CONCACAF Gold Cup Thursday to set up a tantalising showdown with the U.S. national team in Sunday's final.

Cheered on by a near-capacity crowd of more than 90,000 in the mighty Azteca Stadium, Mexico ran rings around their hapless visitors and were clearly out to repeat last week's 9-0 drubbing of Martinique and 8-0 slaughter of Canada. Luis Miguel Salvador opened

the floodgates in the ninth minute, banging home an awkward ball from close range by the right-hand post with the Jamaican defence split hopelessly open. Octavio Mora made it two in

the 14th minute, combining neatly with Salvador on the edge of the goal area to slide the ball in from an acute angle. Hector Wright pulled one back

for Jamaica during a counter-attack in the 17th minute, powering through the Mexican defence to blast past keeper Jorge Campos from the edge of the penalty

But Salvador struck back twice within 20 minutes, heading in from close range in the 18th and snaffling a poor clearance by Bar-

rington Gaynor in the 35th to complete his hat-trick. He could have had four but telegraphed a weak, mis-hit penalty kick to the Jamaican keeper's left in the 43rd minute that Warren Barret had little difficulty saving.

Luis Roberto Alves, who bagged a record seven goals in the 9-0 demolition of Martinique, showed Salvador how it is done with a well-placed penalty kick in the 50th minute that made it 5-1. Six minutes later Ignacio

Ambriz connected with a headed cross from the far post by Salvador to complete the rout. Mexico, in festive mood, then

brought on substitute goalker := Alejandro Garcia to allow eccentric number one keeper Campos to play as a forward for the rest of Campos kept the crowd

amused with a series of runs up the right wing, and even hit the post with 10 minutes to go, but was not able to do any more damage to a ragged visiting side. Mexico now face the United

States in Sunday's final in the Azteca, while Costa Rica and Jamaica will play for third and

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SCENT OF A WOMAN

Mogadishu remains tense amid efforts to end U.N.-Italian row

tank here Friday as U.S. peacekeepers swept a south Mogadishu neighbourhood for arms, a United Nations spokes-

There were no casualties when the tank ran over a landmine near a United States army base in south Mogadishu, Major Leann Swieczkowski told reporters.

It was the first day without U.N. casualties since Monday. But the Somali capital was still tense and few believe that escalating attacks on the U.N. by militiamen of warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed are over. Four Americans, two Belgians and two Zimbabweans have been wounded in sniper attacks this

U.N. special representative Jonathan Howe said a dispute with Rome over the U.N. role in Somalia had "not been resolved" as U.N. Ambassador Robert Gosende held talks here with Maurizio Moreno, a special envoy of the Italian foreign minis-

try.
Brigadier-General Bruno Loi. the controversial commander of Italy's 2.600 troops here, also attended the meeting.

Italy has rejected the U.N.'s

demand that Gen. Loi be recalled, and has called for a halt to

JAKARTA (Agencies) — China

lands in the South China Sea are

it: erritory, but that it is willing

claimants, news reports said.

strengthening military power on the island chain, said Qiao Shi,

chairman of the Chinese standing

committee of the People's Con-

gress. He was speaking in inter-

views with the vernacular news-

paper Kompas and the English-

over the Spratlys, there were no

claims earlier from other coun-

tries," he was quoted by Kompas

views over sovereignty in the

to Indonesia on the first leg of his

tour to all the member countries

of the Association of South-East

Asian Nations (ASEAN), except

for Brunei. He will proceed then

to Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia

Besides China, the Spratlys,

believed to be rich in oil and

other mineral resources, are also

claimed all or in part by Taiwan,

Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia, and

Concern that the Spratlys could

become a regional flashpoint

grew after China passed a law in February last year claiming all of

the islands and reserving the right

to defend the chain with force.

Beijing had breached an earlier

agreement among them renounc-

ing the use of force in settling the

disputes.
"We do not have any plan to

expand our military strength. All

that is only for self-defense," the

Jakarta Post quoted Mr. Qiao as

saying. "China needs stability

and wants to see the region stable

Other claimants charge that

and the Philippines.

the Philippines.

Mr. Qiao is on an official visit

language daily Jakarta Post.

ettle peacefully with other

China has no intention of

said Friday that the Spratly Is-

Gen. Aideed, wanted for the June 5 killings of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers.

Mr. Howe said he had also met Italian officials who are to report back to Rome.

Mr. Howe told AFP that Italy would sent representatives to New York for further talks with U.N. officials. But he stressed that despite the policy dispute Italian troops were manning checkpoints and patrolling Moga-

Italy, warning that the U.N. was getting embroiled in "urban guerrilla warfare," has refused to let its troops take part in further strikes against Gen. Aideed, whose militiamen are stepping up

attacks on U.N. forces. Italians were shocked by the July 2 killings of three of their soldiers in Mogadishu. Thirty-six U.N. peacekeepers have been killed since June and about 120

U.N. forces in Somalia are intervening for the first time under Chapter 7 of the world body's charter, which authorises offensive "peacemaking" opera-

But the military intervention has come under mounting criticism from aid workers and some U.N. civilian officials for losing sight of its humanitarian goals as

U.N. sources said Friday three Somali women recently complained that peacekeepers beat and raped them in their home. A medical report confirmed that they had been beaten,

allegation.
The sources said the soldiers involved were not North Americans or Europeans, but from "one of the smaller countries"

though it did not confirm the rape

involved in the peacekeeping op-But an investigation was drop-ped because their national commander refused to allow them to be interrogated, the sources said.

The British charity Oxfam has. also complained that its Somali driver and guards had been The upsurge of violence since

July 5 has disrupted relief and rehabilitation aimed at restoring order in Somalia, without a government since 1991 and devastated by bitter factional fighting and a famine that killed an estimated 350,000 people.

An enraged mob beat three

foreign journalists to death and a fourth was fatally shot after U.S. helicopter gunships attacked an Aideed building on July 12, killing 54 Somalis according to the International Committee of the Mr. Howe has rejected Italy's

call for dialogue with Gen. Aideed and vowed to arrest the wartord, holed up in south Moga-

"All the nations involved knew when they signed up for Chapter 7 there could be risks and casualties," said Mr. Howe, a retired U.S. admiral.

Meanwhile the 1,200-strong U.S. Quick Reaction Force swept the Medina neighbourhood of south Mogadishu for arms, sear-

ching houses for arms and setting up checkpoints. Aid agencies complain they are not advised of U.N. military op-erations in Mogadishu that could

endanger workers. "We are not asking for military secrets, but we want to know roughly the places and times-to avoid," said Steve Rifkin of the British charity Save the Children. In Geneva, meanwhile, the top U.N. aid official defended the military operations as necessary to bring the peace needed by aid

workers to do their jobs. Jan Eliasson, U.N. undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs, pointed out that it was military intervention that ended Somalia's clan war and allowed humanitarian groups to successfully combat a devastating



children killed early Friday lie outside the Iglesia de Candelaria, Rio de Janeiro's largest Catholic church. Six children were killed in the attack on a group sleeping at the church. Survivors said five

RANDOM VIOLENCE: The bodies of three street children killed early Friday lie outside the Iglesia de Two other children were killed in an attack at the Modern Art Museum. Police said an undetermined number of children were injured (AFP photo)

Yeltsin aide to be probed

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Russian parliament agreed Friday to allow a criminal investigation against one of President Boris Yeltsin's top political allies on suspicion of embezzling state

Deputies voted overwhelmingly to give the green light for the probe into alleged abuses by First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeiko.

Mr. Shumeiko denied the allegation and said he had no-thing to fear from an official corruption probe.

These accusations that I'm one of the biggest fraudesters in the country have been going on a long time," Mr. Shumeiko, appearing genial and relaxed. said in an interview with iournalists including Reuters Television.

"My conscience is clear and I know I have done nothing to take even a single rouble from Russia, and therefore I feel completely calm," he added. "This is simply a show, a spectacle in order to stir up public opinion once again." Prosecutor-General Valentin

Stepankov said Mr. Shumeiko. while serving as deputy chairman of parliament in 1989, was responsible for transferring \$14.5 million to a Swiss-based company to buy baby food for Russia. He said the contract was never

fulfilled and the company used the money for its own purposes. Mr. Shumeiko said the contract was actually not to import large quantities of baby food, but to launch factory production of it in Moscow. He said this was going ahead and 60 per cent of the

livered and assembled. "This contract is working," he

equipment required had been de-

Mr. Shumeiko, one of several top presidential aides whom the conservative opposition accuses of corruption, said its tactics were to damage Mr. Yeltsin by discrediting his government.

"They want to show that I can't work in the president's entourage, that I'm a thief, and so on," he said. "Their chosen tactic is to 'take out' certain figures close to the president."

Mr. Yeltsin, meanwhile, fired the deputy interior minister responsible for cracking down on organised crime

Presidential officials refused to give a reason for General Andrei Dunayev's dismissal, but Interior Minister Viktor Yerin had strongly criticised the anti-mafia department in a press conference on

Tuesday. Mr. Yerin also pointed out that police had been waiting for several months for parliament to pass a law outlawing mafia-type orga-

The strength of organised crime in he Russian capital has been highlighted by gangster shootouts in the city which have killed more than 50 people in the past three months.

The Madrid conference was the

month. A team will go to Iraq to

install the cameras the week of

perts will be in the country to

monitor any tests, he said. In

addition, the commission will

continue its. high-altitude recon-

naissance flights and will send a

team in August to investigate

"vigorously" the possibility of any hidden nuclear weapons

Iraq gave him a list of propos-

als that may or may not be

Baghdad's conditions for com-

plying with all the council's de-

mands on Iraqi chemical, biolo-

gical, nuclear, and ballistic

Mr. Ekeus called Iraq's accept-ance of Resolution 715 "political-

ly very important," and he stres-

sed that the list of proposals -

which includes lifting the oil

embargo before Iraq agrees to

the monitoring — was not pre-sented as a package but rather as a "list of items."

to see it as a package," he said.

"If Iraq had done that ... it would

He cited two factors which had

have been completely useless."

helped defuse a serious con-

frontation between the Security

Council and Iraq over the in-stallation of the cameras: the

"strong and united Security

Council position" threatening se-

rious consequences if Iraq did not

comply with the monitoring, and the difficult economic situation in

nomic situation is such that it

cannot pay for these, which cre-

ates considerable hardship.

talks as a new political effort to relieve the plight of the Iraqi people," he said.

in guerrilla warfare against Israel.

"Iraq has a right to import food

"Iraq has not committed itself

weapons, Mr. Ekeus said.

programmes, he said.

Thatcher receives Russian honorary doctorate

MOSCOW (R) — Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher received an Honorary doctorate in chemistry from a leading Russian university. The award ceremony at Mendeleyev University, a leading institute for chemical research, was also attended by former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and his wife Raisa. Highlights were broadcast on Commonwealth Television's main evening news programme, while Mrs. Thatch-er's speech after the ceremony was reported in full in the Russian daily Izvestiya. Mrs. Thatcher, who was replaced as premier by John Major in a 1990 Conservative Party coup, is now a member of parliament's un-elected House of Lords. Her tough policies earned her the nickname "the iron lady" and won her popularity and admira-tion in Russia.

Emperor, empress to visit quake hit Japanese island

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko will visit the northern island of Okushiri which was hit by a devastating earthquake ear-lier this month, the Imperial Household Agency said Friday. The imperial couple will fly Tuesday morning to Hakodate Airport in southern Hokkaido, from where they will fly to Okushiri on a Self-Defence Forces helicopter, the agency said. They will return to Tokyo Tuesday evening. Okushiri, a small island with a population of 4,700 off Hokkaido Island, was the worst hit area in the July 12 earthquake which measured 7.8 on the Richter Scale. The quake was followed by huge tidal waves that hit southwestern Hokkaido and other. parts of northern Japan. So far, 193 people have been confirmed dead and 48 others are still missing, feared dead. On Okushiri alone, 161 have been confirmed dead and 44 remain missing.

starting point of the peace talks. The newspaper was comment-Asians see too ing on the upcoming visit to the

HONG KONG (AFP) — The level of violence on television is a growing concern in Asia, but young people seem inured, according to a survey released Friday. A poll by the Survey Research Group of nine Asian countries found that on top of concerns about violence, people in South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and the Philippines also had "strong feelings" about the breakdown of law and order. Some 8,500 people were polled regionwide, with the highest level of concern about violence on television coming from the Philippines, where more than half of those questioned said there was too much violence. This was followed by Japan, where 42 per cent considered the levels of violence too high, while more than a third of the people in Hong Kong and South Korea felt the same, the poll said. The poll found that throughout the region concern was greater among women than men and increased with age and family responsibilities. Single males of lower income in the 20-to-28 age group claimed there was too little violence on television. In Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan, nearly one in six single

U.S. Senate

U.S. Senate reversed itself and refused to approve the insignia of a charitable group that contains the Confederate flag, a symbol for many of the old days of

NEWS IN BRIEF China claims Spratlys, but open to peaceful solution Rafsanjani criticises U.S. over Bosnia

in order to develop its economy." As a member of ASEAN, In-Friday criticised the United States for opposing the deployment of Iranian troops as peacekeeping forces in Bosnia and urged Washington to be more understanding of Muslims. Speaking at donesia has been initiating efforts to build mutual trust and antici-Friday prayers, Mr. Rafsanjani said the United States is "afraid of pate problems by bringing the

conferences since 1990. The fourth conference on the chain is scheduled for Aug. 23-26 in Surabaya, East Java. A working group meeting early this month in Jakarta has agreed to cooperate on research on re-

sources ranging from oil to the

potential as a tourist

rival claimants together in annual

"In the history of sovereignty In recent years, senior officials from the ASEAN countries have expressed renewed concern over as saying. "Just in recent time, China's modernisation of its some countries have different military.

The officials are worried that Beijing could become more aggressive in pushing its territorial claims in the South China sea where China fought a brief but bloody naval engagement with Vietnam in 1988.

News reports had described China as building a military base near the islands and buying Russian jets and transport planes but China this week denied building up forces.

ASEAN ministers Friday invited non-ASEAN countries to accede to its 1976 friendship treaty as the basis for a new security агтапдетент in the Asia-Pacific. "There was no immediate reaction by ASEAN ministers to the

Chinese comments but they are

likely to be welcomed. "What is important is, we would want some real assurance from China that it still maintains the policy of not seeking hegemony, it still maintains the policy of wanting to see this area as an area of peace and stability," Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told

reporters Friday.

Letter from Geneva

The writer, who is a member of the Jordan Times editorial staff, is

MANY ISLAMIC states are increasing hiding behind Sharia as an

excuse to escape international scrutiny. Egypt circulated Friday a note in connection with the consideration of its periodic report on

the extent of its adherence to the International Covenant on Civil

and Political Rights (ICCPR) informing the human rights commit-

tee members that when it had ratified the ICCPR in 1982, it had

done so with clear understanding that such ratification is condition-

al on the extent of the compatability between Sharia and the

non-implementation of the provisions of the various international

human rights instruments has been gaining currency of late and

found clear expression during the Vienna world conference on

human rights. The submission of most of the developing countries

at the Vienna meeting rested squarely on the need to give due

effect to the peculiar cultural and religious circumstances of each

and every state whenever such countries are marked on their

human rights record. Fortunately, such a line of counter-attack did

not win wide favour among the participants at the Vienna gathering

albeit some milder reference was made to the richness of the

various civilisations and religions should not be deployed as a

When the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 was

being codified into legally-binding treaties, the entire United

Nations membership took part in the process and made their voices

and concerns loud and clear. The Islamic countries also took part in

that process of codification. In retrospect, the Islamic nations

cannot now present justifications for their non-compliance with the

ICCPR and other human rights conventions on grounds that could

have been invoked some 20 years ago. Granted the United Nations

membership was not so universal as it is now. There were less than

half of present 183 member states to reflect the universal stance.

This fact alone is the strongest argument in support of the thesis

States can no longer resort to the thesis that their peculiar

their treaty obligations under the ICCPR and other international

smoke-screen for human rights violations.

This tendency to resort to good old religion as an excuse for the

a member of the U.N. Human Rights Committee.

Arab youths at a peace camp in Cyprus aimed at promoting mutual understanding, organisers said Friday. Camp coordinator Peter Treichel told reporters some 200 young people will attend the camp in the Troodos mountains from July 26 to Aug. 3. The camp is organised by the Association for Peace in the Middle East initiative, founded by the International Falcon Movement/Socialist Educators International (IFM/SEI). Mr. Treichel, of the Socialist Youth Movement of Germany, said there will be three delegations of equal size: Israeli (Jews and Arabs), Palestinian (from the occupied territories and the diaspora) and IFM/SEI with young people from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, German, Belgium, France and Egypt. It is the fourth camp of its kind since the initiative was launched in Sweden in 1990, and the first to be heid in

TEHRAN (AFP) — President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani

our influence in the Balkans, but never questions its own search for

influence around the world." Washington's "initial pretext for not

intervening in Bosnia was that there were no ground troops that

could be deployed" in the war-torn country, he said. "But when he volunteered, we were immediately rebuffed." Tehran proposed

earlier this month to put 10,000 men at the disposal of the United

Nations as part of an offer made by the Organisation of the Islamic

Conference. But the U.S. State Department said it was opposed to

Israelis, Palestinians to attend Cyprus camp

NICOSIA (R) - Israelis and Palestinians will join European and

the deployment of Iranians in Bosnia.

French customs seize 406 kilos cocaine

PERPIGNAN, France (AFP) - French customs officials seized 406 kilogrammes of cocaine with a street value of \$45 million from an Italian lorry at a toll station on a motorway here, police said Friday. Investigators were working on the theory that a trafficking network operating out of Colombia via Spain was transiting the drugs through France to Italy. Police said the mafia was probably involved. The Italian driver of the lorry was arrested for trafficking and remanded in custody here. Customs officers decided to inspec the lorry, which had Milan license plates and was allegedly travelling empty, because of anomalies in the paperwork.

Indian police seize alleged Pakistani spy

NEW DELH (R) - India accused a Pakistani of spying Friday and was in turn charged with fabricating the incident to malign its old enemy. Indian foreign ministry spokesman Shiv Mukherjee said Mohammad Riaz was arrested in New Delhi's main diplomatic district Friday morning. "He was apprehended in the act of receiving sensitive documents from a local contact." Mr. Mukherjee told Reuters, adding that the Pakistani embassy had been told to collect Mr. Riaz from police custody. Mr. Mukherjee told reporters later that the documents related to the movement and deployment of the Indian army and air force, United News of India reported. The Pakistanis issued a statement alleging that Mr. Riaz, an embassy driver, had been jumped on by 10 Indian security men at a petrol station, beaten, then taken to a nearby park, tied up and beaten again. "A charade was enacted in which the official was forcibly made to receive so-called documents from an unknown India person," the statement said. It said Mr. Riaz was then taken to a nearby police station, where he "was forced to sign a

General strike shuts down Calcutta

CALCUTTA (AP) - Calcutta was shut down on Friday by a general strike and thousands of people who sat on railroad tracks and roads to protest the killing of 12 demonstrators by police. The daylong strike was called by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress Party to demand the resignation of the communist government in West Bengal state, whose capital is Calcutta. Armed police officers took positions at all major intersections. On Wednesday, police killed 12 people when they opened fire on Congress Party demonstrators who accused the West Bengal chief minister, Jyoti Basu, of terrorising political opponents. "People will not forget what happened in Calcutta. The drastic killings are a black spot for the government. Jyoti Basu should resign," Somen Mitra, president of the state congress party, said in a statement. West Bengal is the only communist-ruled state in India, where Mr. Basu's Communist Party of India (Marxist) has held power for the last 15 years.

Liberian peace talks resume

COTONOU (AFP) - Talks aimed at completing a Liberian peace agreement resumed here Friday amid hopes for a rapid settlement, though the main rebel leader said he would not attend because he feared Nigerian peacekeepers were out to "kill" him. Sources close to the delegations said an agreement should be officially signed Saturday, though Charles Taylor, head of the National Patriotic Front (NPFL) said Friday he would not come to Cotonou, the capital of Benin, for "security reasons." The talks, held on the sidelines of a summit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), are aimed at deciding on the formation and working of a transitional government, parliament and judiciary before elections are held within seven months of a planned July 31 ceasefire as called for under an agreement reached by the warring factions last weekend in Geneva.

Jordan dismisses

Israeli report

as untrue By Aymen !! Safadi

Reporter AMMAN iday categorically a.... ... newspaper report that , ast week

handed a wanted Palestinian to Israeli authoritie. The Israeli daily L. ar Friday quoted the family of Mohammad Al Bilbeisi as claiming that Mr. Bilbeisi was arrested by Jorda-

nian authorities upon return from Saudi Arabia on July 14 and was later driven to a bridge over the Jordan River and handed over to Israel.

"It is absolutely untrue. It didn't happen," Minister of Information Ma'an Abu Nowar told the Jordan Times Friday. "It is a fabricated story."

In the report, which was carried by Reuter news agency, the Israeli paper said Mr. Bilbeisi fled the occupied West Bank in 1987 after the Israeli authorities tried to arrest him in connections with bombings in Tel Aviv.

The paper said the 30-year-old man from the West Bank village of Salfit had been forced by Jordanian authorities to leave the country. It said he worked on Saudi Arabia and visited Jordan periodically until his alleged arrest by Jordanian authorities on July 14 when he wanted to reside in the country.

The paper said the family of Mr. Bilbeisi sought the help of an Israeli human rights organisation to determine his whereabouts. It quoted an official of the organisation as saying that Israeli authorities have admitted having Mr. Bilbeisi but did not reveal where he is being held. The human rights group Friday asked the Israeli high court to order authorities to disclose his location.

Reuter said Israeli army officials declined comment on the report that Mr. Bilbeisi was handed over to them by Jordanian authorities.

Correction

Due to a proofreading error, a story entitled "Journalists with political publications lock horns with press association," incorrectly reported that the legal advisor of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) had advised the JPA president that political parties' publications are considered news organisations whose members are entitled to join the association. The sentence should have read: "Political parties ... should not be recognised as news organisations whose members are entitled to join the association." The Jordan Times regrets the

Fateh endorses confederation for peace included in the U.S. initiative which laid the ground for the (1991) Madrid confernce," Al Baath said. (Continued from page 1)

withdraw from the Sinai Peninsa

"The question is why Israei carried out Eisenhower's order then and why it is not implementing the principle of land

Middle East by Mr. Christopher. U.N. starts long-term Iraq watch

on oil sales and lifting the oil July 26 and U.N. weapons exembargo with Iraq's latest compromise.

Baghdad last month barred the installation of the monitoring devices at the two sites. Its defiance led to a standoff with the Security Council, which threatened Baghdad with "serious consequences" if it did not relent. Foreign Minister Mohammad

Said Al Sahaf said Thursday he hoped Iraq's approval of the monitoring plan would help ease crippling economic sanctions imposed three years ago.

Iraq has been barred from selling oil or importing goods, except for food and medicine, under a worldwide embargo imposed after its Aug. 2, 1990, invasion of

But Mr. Ekeus said he could not recommend that sanctions be

"The problem in Iraq is that you don't really trust them," he said in an interview with CBS News television broadcast Friday. "You are suspicious and you have reason to be suspicious."
Mr. Ekeus added that he was

not satisfied that Iraq had been stripped of its capacity to produce long-range missiles, despite the compromise over the monitoring of the test sites. Another deadlock Mr. Zif-

ferero said he will try to resolve is that over the sources that supplied Iraq with nuclear material. Iraq has refused to disclose procurement data, but the IAEA says the information is essential to decide what the chances of reviving the nuclear programme

At a press conference after his private meeting with the council, Mr. Ekeus Thursday outlined the commission's plans for the next

Israel says Syria in proxy war moved against factions involved

(Continued from page I)

Lebanon has repeatedly called at the talks for Israel to withdraw from the "security zone," saying it considers the Israeli presence an occupation.

Although the government has disbanded militias that fought in the 1975-90 civil war, it has not

Hizbollah opposes any talks with the Jewish state and has called for its overthrow. It has been blamed for stepping up attacks on Israeli forces each time the peace negotiators meet.

"Resistance is the only language Israel understands,"
Sheikh Qassem said.

Two more arrested

was amended in 1991 to allow rewards of up to \$2 million, limit the department's authority to acts

administered by the Justice Department in cases of domestic terrorism, but that programmes has not been adequately funded, the department's authority to acts that take place primarily abroad.

Congress also created a separate rewards programme to be the morning of Feb. 26. Mr. Yousef was last seen on

(Continued from page 1)

much violence on TV

males under 20 expressed a preference for more violence on

reverses flag vote WASHINGTON (R) - The

and medicine — there is no (U.N.) prohibition, but the ecoslavery in America. The 75-25 vote to kill an amendment renewing the design patent for the emblem of the United Daughters Therefore Iraq may see these of the Confederacy came after Illinois Democrat Carol Moseley Braun, the Senate's only black member, voiced outrage at an earlier vote that had gone the other way. "I have to tell you this vote is about race," she said in protest to the Senate. "It is about symbols, the racial past, and the single most painful episode in American history. The issue is whether or not Americans such as myself ...will have to suffer the indignity of being reminded time and time again that at one point in this country's history we were human chattel." The debate erupted when Senator Jesse Helms, a North Carolina Republican, proposed renewing the 1898 design patent in an amendment to a bill setting up President Bill Clinton's national service system. The amendment apparently seemed innocuous to many, and the Senate rejected Mr. Moseley Braun's motion to kill it.

covenant.

that existing human rights norms are not truly universal since less than half of the world took part in their drafting. religious situation can still be used as an excuse not to live up to conventions.